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HOME NEWS

Leaders of Grunwick strike fear repetition of Lewisham violence

By Robert Parker

The strike committee and other organizers of recent mass picketing outside the Grunwick factory in north London are worried that violence similar to that employed in the recent demonstrations against the National Front at Lewisham and Birmingham may be used in any further mass picketing arranged after the publication of the report of the Scarman inquiry into the dispute.

The strike committee considers that any such violence would be totally undesirable. It is countering the threat by preparing leaflets appealing for peaceful picketing and by rehearsing stewards.

"We are totally against the violence of Lewisham and Ladywood, indeed we are horrified by it," a representative said yesterday. "We think it is counter-productive anyway, and we shall be taking the strongest possible steps to make sure that it does not occur here."

The committee expects that "any mass picketing will be necessary after the Scarman report is published, probably on Thursday. It argues that even if the inquiry finds in favour of the strikers and the union involved in the dispute, the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex), the company will be unlikely to accept the report's recommendations. Many members of the

Socialist Workers Party, the group principally responsible for the violent opposition to the recent National Front march at Grunwick during the two weeks of mass picketing in June and August 8.

"They have always said that their party members would follow the decisions of the strike committee, but at the mass picket on August 8 groups of pickets urged that every effort should be made to stop the buses taking Grunwick workers into the factory."

A rally is being held at Alexandra Palace in north London tonight to mark the anniversary of the start of the Grunwick strike. Speakers will include Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, Mr Roy Grantham, general secretary of Apex, and Mr Jack Dromey, secretary of Brent Trades Council.

On Tuesday there will be a conference in London of the south-east region of the TUC, the TUC at its meeting on September 5, calling for all unions to support the ending of all services to the Grunwick factories.

Prison officers accused of assault after Hull riot

Continued from page 1

to a landing where breakfast was being served, as the prison canteen had been badly damaged in the riot. "I was pulled up by the shoulders and told to get some bread and jam. This was smeared on my hand, and the tea I was given smelt as if it had urine in it."

He maintained that soup and tea given to the prisoners the previous evening had also been polluted and the mattress and blanket supplied to him were soiled and damp with urine. He said he thought the riot had provided a new prison officers at Hull with "a convenient excuse to wield their authority to the full", with an added element of revenge on the part of some of them for the damage caused in the riot.

"It was a breach of the negotiations between prisoners and the Home Office, which undertook that we would not be sub-

mitted to violence. "It was also a breach of humanity. The screws not only degraded us but degraded themselves."

Mr King alleged that two prisoners were badly beaten by officers in the early stages of the riot. After the disturbance, he said, a senior officer accused him of burning down the prison gymnasium, and kicked him violently in the legs.

He attributed the riot to an increasingly stringent regime in the months preceding it. "There was an influx of very authoritarian new prison officers," he said. "Although our loss of free time through overtime was not greeted with a cheer, it was accepted by us."

He added that many prisoners were incensed by the contents of personal files obtained by them immediately before the riot. His own allegedly described him as "a dangerous man to release into society."

Demand by Tory MP for strong Home Secretary

By a Staff Reporter

A call for the replacement of Mr Rees with a "much stronger Home Secretary" was made last night by Mr Eddison Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds and parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation.

Speaking in his constituency, he said that Mr Rees, "a nice man as he is, no longer commands the confidence of the police."

The Prime Minister should also take other measures the public needed. He should end the recruitment of police cadets and civilian aides; tell police authorities, especially in London, the Midlands, Merseyside and West Yorkshire that the Treasury would accept for rate-support grant any necessary increase in police overtime; and announce a programme to increase police manpower by about 10,000, including several thousand in London.

Mr Griffiths also suggested a generous settlement of the police pay dispute, the restoration of constables' pay to the level of the region of the commission, additional funds to improve police relations with the immigrant community, an amendment to the Children and Young Persons Act to enable magistrates rather than social workers to deal with violent young criminals and the creation of a new offence of attacking a police officer on duty punishable by "not less than two years imprisonment."

He said that most policemen would feel little but contempt for the honeyed words of support now being laded out by press and Government while, simultaneously, the dismal process of running down police strength gathered speed.

Large numbers of seasoned officers were leaving the service and police cover was frighteningly inadequate in most big conurbations. The mugger had an even chance of getting away with his crime and six burglaries out of seven in London were no longer solved.

Home Office claims that police numbers were being maintained rested largely on the replacement of retired men with young policemen, whose admirable qualities did not include the ability to stand up to the pounding the police were now receiving in the streets.

"Against this background it is hubbub for ministers to claim they are 'bucking the police'. Over recent years they have consistently let down the police," Mr Griffiths declared.

At the parish pump: The press gets back to reality as silver jubilee fervour cools

The NHS a principal issue of concern for local editors

By Alan Hamilton

Now that silver jubilee fervour has cooled, Britain's newspapers have been able to resume a more balanced coverage of local issues. It will be a long time before there is another such goddess to fill the columns of national and provincial papers.

But the royal tour of the kingdom is only just over and last week's edition of *The Cornishman*, the Penzance weekly, was able to go to town on the jubilee visit by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. The paper carefully including the full names of all those who were fortunate enough to shake the royal hand, and recording for posterity the fragmented snippets of conversation that occur on such occasions.

The Duke asked a Penzance fisherman if foreign boats were causing much trouble to the local industry. "The Scots are as big a nuisance as the foreigners," Mr William Thomas replied.

At an official reception at Truro, the Queen asked Mr Truro where he came from. "From Penzance, your Majesty," the deputy mayor of that town replied. The Queen was interested in how far he had travelled to get to Truro to represent the whole way of Cornwall's insignia of office.

"I could not believe it," a delighted Mr Spargo told the newspaper.

But in the rest of the United Kingdom harsh reality had begun to penetrate the euphoric mists of celebration, and the principal issues of local concern were inflation and the cuts in local authority spending, with the National Health Service in the forefront of attack.

The main report in the *Hexham Courant* reported that the four-bed maternity unit at Hailwhistle Hospital was threatened with closure to save £15,000 a year. Local doctors were strongly opposed to the plan, suggesting that it might be hazardous for women in labour to make the 16-mile journey to the next nearest maternity hospital at Berwick.

The local health authority pointed out that last year Hailwhistle Hospital handled only 53 live births.

Complaints of a different kind against the health service were strongly expressed in a front-page report for *The Free Press*, of Kirkcaldy, which reported the difficulties of anxious relatives in getting information on the condition of patients. One father who telephoned to inquire about his injured son was told that he could be given no information in case he was a reporter. The local health council took up the com-

plaints, but the press was barred from the discussions. Reporters have also run into difficulties on their daily round in the West Midlands, the *Kidderminster Gazette* reports. Two journalists and a photographer there were swooped upon in the style of Kojak by armed police officers and held for questioning when they tried to follow up a tip-off about a raid on a wages van.

"My photographer and I were very shocked that such television-style antics should actually happen in the middle of Kidderminster," said Mr Hugh Berlyn, whose father, a retired police officer, has since been barred from the local police sports and social club.

Relations between police and press are generally better than that. The *Hexham Courant* had a long editorial last week saying that cuts in the police force were especially damaging in rural areas, where the replacement of the village policeman by a centrally based officer in a patrol car did nothing to cement mutual trust between police and public. The police, it said, deserved stronger backing than they sometimes received from the Government.

"A steady sapping of police strength and morale conjures up possibilities almost too frightening to contemplate in a country where the whole way of life has been rooted so far long

in respect for, and maintenance of, law and order."

Police-press cooperation is also favoured by the *Stratford and Newham Express*, the bright, aggressive tabloid newspaper serving east London, especially when it provides a good story. The paper has handed to the police a dossier on local National Front activities compiled from interviews with a deserter from the Front.

The editorial column comments: "East Enders have good reason to remember—or indeed to forget—the evils of the Nazis. Mosley and his cohorts saw east London as a 'natural stamping ground for the race-hate gangs. Hitler and his mob saw it as a target for destruction... the National Front should be given the order of the boot, the jackboot."

At a time of stress between police and printing industries communities the *Express* reports a serious attempt to improve relations between the two in the East End. In a friendly cricket match, which it is hoped will become an annual event, a West Indian team had the Stratford police all out for 49. But things changed after the interval. The police, in a bowling, dispatched the West Indian side for 14 runs.

In the country districts this is the time for tales of horror about farm prices. The *Gloucestershire Chronicle* reports

that this year's apple crop will be the worst for more than a decade and the 60p-a-pound apple could become a reality. Like the 15p-a-pound potato, the paper puts the blame for long cold nights and spring frosts, together with a growth in drought, producing little new growth and fruit buds.

Potato prices on the other hand, are at their lowest for two years, the *Cambridgeshire Times* reports. But in spite of that, a survey conducted by two reporters with huge appetites and a set of kitchen scales found that prices in the fish and chip shops of March were going up rather than down, with proprietors blaming the rising cost of fish and fry oil. Even the cost of new papers for wrapping the fish is going up, one writer said. Reporters found, however, that among the town's chip shops, 12p portion of chips varied from 60s to 100s.

In spite of rising prices sections of the community seem to be managing quite well. The *Kent Messenger*, which commendably publishes the editor's private telephone number at the top of its lead column, managed to fill its pages last week with an advertising feature entitled: "Looking after your swimming pool is not as difficult as you might think."

Reporters take their union to court

By a Staff Reporter

A High Court judge will be asked next Friday to decide whether a union should be allowed to use its funds to pay the fines of members arrested on picket lines.

A temporary injunction against the National Union of Journalists was granted yesterday to two of its members, Mr William Geoffrey Drake, of *The Hampshire Chronicle*, and Mr André Gibbons, of Allbrook, Hampshire, a reporter with Solent News Agency at Southampton. They said yesterday that they had taken action after hearing that an NUJ member convicted of an offence on the Grunwick picket lines had said in court that the union would pay his £60 fine.

The union said yesterday that it could not confirm whether it had paid a member's fine. Mr Drake said journalists in the provinces were paid little enough without having to give



Mr Gibbons (left) and Mr Drake in London yesterday.

their money away to pay fines. They had presented to the court, he said, a memorandum from the union's general treasurer, Mr John Bailey.

In it, Mr Bailey said that under rule the union had paid for the defence of members in-

volved in local proceedings resulting from prosecution by the police and the state. Where the costs were likely to be heavy the union always made clear from the outset that it could afford to make only a contribution.

Principles divide 'FT' management and union

By Tim Jones

The management and union involved in the dispute that has prevented publication of the *Financial Times* for 13 days both appeared to entrench themselves behind points of principle yesterday, which has hardened attitudes on both sides. They are clearly hoping that a formula can be worked out when the TUC printing industries committee meets on Monday.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, said last night that his union would not be prepared to negotiate a resumption of work unless the management agreed to revert to the status quo before the dispute started. If the management failed to comply it would lead to industrial chaos.

For the company, Mr Justin Dukes, a director, said it was not prepared to buy short-term peace but would insist that both sides should adhere to the findings of a joint appeals committee, which said that disputed money should be paid into a joint account until differences were resolved by an appeals committee.

The committee that made the recommendation was headed by an independent arbitrator, Mr S. Kessler, who was nominated by the union and accepted by the management.

Negotiations have been made more difficult by the decision of the management not to pay 232 NGA members, earning an average of £172 a week, from

last Saturday. Three hundred other printing employees have been given protective notice.

The dispute arises from agreement made between NGA officials and the newspaper head printer in 1975 which allowed him to take nights on a rota basis. The arrangement meant that because of work was required during a financial recession.

The appeals committee for that no agreement recognized by the company permitted 1 member of the NGA to recommend that the NGA should be taken into formal negotiations.

Mr Wade said last night that there was nothing in the appeals committee procedure that stated that the recommendation should be binding.

Mr Dukes and the rest of the management argue that unless the findings of agreed dispute procedures are binding they can be no significant basis for industrial relations. In industrial relations, he said, it is always possible to buy peace but we are concerned with long-term stability and adherence to agreed procedures.

Mr Alan Hare, chief executive of the *Financial Times*, said: "We are very concerned about the situation because we have now failed to appear longer than any national newspaper for 20 years. We are concerned not only about a loss of revenue but, more important, about the effect the stoppage on readers' loyalty. We are prepared to talk at a time."

Chess title still undecided with one round to go

From a Chess Correspondent

Brighton

At the end of play in the penultimate round of the Collingwood British Chess Championship at Brighton yesterday the destination of the title was still in doubt.

George Bortolotti was in excellent style against Bindle but Taubert, his joint leader, was also doing well against Max Fuller and established a strong passed pawn from which a win seemed likely.

Nigel Short, aged 12, the youngest competitor, beat the East Midlands boy champion, C. C. Fleet, and with 41 points, could still reach a 50 per cent score. He will before the tournament that he would consider that very satisfactory for a first attempt.

ROUND 10: Bortolotti 1, Bennett 0; Bindle 1, Rayner 0; Fleet 1, Priest 0; Fuller 1, Taubert 0; Hare 1, Jones 0; Kessler 1, Wade 0; Liddle 1, Short 0; M. 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Bill to reform rape law is defeated in Commons

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

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No scope to cut bacon profits, the curers say

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Bacon curers said yesterday

that there was no scope for

the Government to cut their

profits, as it wanted to do with

coffee. Mr Kenneth Altrich,

chairman of the Meat Promotion

Executive of the Meat and

Livestock Commission, said in

London: "The retail price has

risen less than 5 per cent in a

year."

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of

State for Prices and Consumer

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profits after a Price Commission

report. He called in the

spring for a similar report

about bacon.

Mr H. M. Newton-Clare,

chairman of the Bacon and

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Rescuing devolution? Labour sceptical over Liberals' proposals

By Peter Hennessy

A spectre has been haunting

ministers during the search by

the Cabinet's devolution com-

mittee for a suitable judicial

buffer to mitigate future con-

flict between Westminster and

an Edinburgh assembly. It is

the new defunct Industrial

Relations Court, which ministers

regard as a political body

rigidly doomed to failure.

The Liberal document pub-

lished in March, the starting

point of the Government's

search for a reconstituted

devolution policy, was adamant

that a special constitutional

court should be founded to

adjudicate disputes arising from

the vices of assembly legisla-

tion. It stated:

"The importance of the subject

matter, its sensitivity and unan-

timity, all point to a higher

degree of specialism than is cur-

rently in legal affairs. The

specialist Restrictive Practices

Court has worked efficiently in

its 20-year existence, and the

Employment Appeals Tribunal is

building up a body of case law

more appropriate to industrial

relations than the older common-

law courts. There is no reason to

believe that a constitutional

court would not develop appro-

priate constitutional principles

which would pay regard to all

the interests at stake.

Even without the precedent

of the Industrial Relations

Court to cloud their political

perspective few ministers find

themselves able to make the

optimistic, imaginative leap

contained in that paragraph.

The matter dealt with by the

analogue bodies quoted by the

Liberals are small beer com-

pared with the 'unity of the

United Kingdom in the eyes of

the Government.

The resolution of economic

disputes between Whitehall and

Edinburgh lies at the root of

ministerial scepticism about the

Liberal plan. Nothing could be

more political than economic

affairs in the thinking of the

present government. Such mat-

ters are regarded as firmly

within the remit of ministerial

rather than judicial decision.

The Liberals want the Scot-

land Bill of next session to

contain a statement prohibiting

legislative or executive action

that "impairs the freedom of

trade and commerce between

Scotland and the rest of the

United Kingdom." Whitehall

feels that such a statement

would prove impossible to

use as a guideline for any con-

stitutional court in areas not

specifically covered by the

clauses of the Bill.

If, for example, the Scottish

assembly imposed on lorries a

tax that made it relatively un-

profitable to travel south of the

border to deliver goods in

England or amended the num-

ber of hours a driver could

work, the court, in resolving the

dispute, would be engaged in

politics, not law.

Another Whitehall anxiety is

the procedure for taking evi-

dence that a constitutional

court would develop. In repre-

senting the interests of the

United Kingdom Government

in the witness box, ministers or

civil servants might find them-

selves obliged to disclose in-

formation more properly given

first to the House of Commons

if made public at all.

The Government's counter-

argument to the Liberals' broad

proposals is that they amount

to federalism. Pointing to the

collapse of the Scotland and

Wales Bill last February, min-

isters have indicated that there

is no support for a federalist

solution among English MPs

and, hence, no conceivable

majority for the Liberals' more

full-blooded suggestions.

But the Government is in

favour of pre-assembly scrutiny

of Scottish assembly Bills by the

Judicial Committee of the Privy

Council. It also agrees, in prin-

ciple, with post-assent review.

But ministers are reluctant to

use the judicial committee for

the second stage. Whitehall

does not relish the spectacle of

a host of A. P. Herbert-style

"misleading cases" being

brought by forensically skilled

Scottish eccentrics trying down

an high-powered a body of

Privy Counsellors whose services

should be used sparingly. An

alternative judicial body has

yet to be designated or invented

by ministers.

The devolution exercise has

proved a fascinating endeavour

for the Whitehall machine.

Even if the Scotland Bill and

the Wales Bill fall in December,

the constitution unit in the

Cabinet Office will probably

complete an administrative

history of the entire enter-

prise for the illumination of

future generations. On top

of that, an army of PhD candi-

dates in the Scottish and Welsh

universities will have acquired

enough raw material to see

them through well into the next

century.

The following paragraphs, omis-

sed from later editions yester-

day, elaborated on the Govern-

ment's likely decision to opt

for a reformed block grant to

provide funds for the Edin-

burgh assembly rather than to

introduce separate revenue rais-

ing powers for Scotland.

Concluded

School said to have told dying man to go

HOME NEWS

Air and ground radar in RAF defence improvement priorities

From Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent
High Wycombe

Concern about the defence of Britain's airspace is growing in the RAF because of improvements in the capabilities of Soviet aircraft. New designs, such as the Backfire bomber and Fencer ground attacker have six times the range and five times the payload of their predecessors of 10 years ago.

Last year RAF fighters were "scrambled" 133 times as Warsaw Pact aircraft probed the extremities of Nato's Air Defence Region 12, which includes the United Kingdom. In all, 123 interceptions were made.

So far this year there have been only 62 intrusions and 30 interceptions, but RAF Strike Command expects the figures to rise in the autumn when annual exercises on Nato's northern flank attract Warsaw Pact aircraft.

If war broke out it is estimated that two-thirds of Nato's combat aircraft might be based in Britain, many of them American aircraft poised to strike at targets in Europe.

That explains why a quarter of the RAF's resources during the next 10 years will go towards an air-defence improvement programme.

An important element will be the air-defence variant of the Tornado multi-role combat aircraft, whose range and modest runway requirements should improve the chances of catching approaching aircraft 300 miles north of the Scottish mainland, on the fringes of area 12. The type should enter service about 1985.

Other improvements include building hardened two-aircraft shelters for British airfields, which should start in 1979, helped by Nato funding.

Then the number of Bloodhound medium-level anti-aircraft missile sites in Britain will be increased from three to seven when Bloodhounds are returned from RAF Germany, where they are being replaced with the low-level Rapier system.

A fourth part of the improvement programme involves the United Kingdom Air Defence Ground Environment, the chain of radar stations that at last surrounds the country, covering hostile air infringement from all compass points.

The system is more comprehensive in coverage, and less vulnerable, thanks to a "ring main" concept that ensures that if part of the system is destroyed the rest will work with undiminished efficiency.

Then at the end of the decade, the Nimrod airborne early-warning squadron will come into being, replacing the elderly Shackletons in the job of providing radar cover against aircraft flying too low to be picked up by ground-based radar.

Not all the improvements are likely to find their way to an airman's heart. There were a few misty eyes at Strike Command at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, yesterday when it was announced that members of the Women's Royal Air Force, who far a generation of war films have occupied the centre of a thousand command rooms, pushing model aircraft across plotting boards, have finally disappeared.

They have gone to make way for a computer with the sexless name of Air Staff Management Aid (Asma) which projects any suspicious aircraft up to as far as the North Cape of Norway on a display screen for the commander-in-chief in his regional command operations room, so that he can make the big decisions.

No evidence of Grunwick pay grievances, QC says

By Robert Parker

The union seeking recognition and the reinstatement of dismissed Grunwick Laboratory workers over-reacted to events after the walk-out of workers on August 23, Mr Mervyn Heald, QC, said in opening the case for Grunwick at the London court of inquiry yesterday.

He said the Association of Professional, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex) had been unable to climb down from its early position. The union had taken strong action before any of the procedures under the Employment Protection Act, 1975, had been gone into. There was evidence that Apex mobilized its forces at the Willenden factory at a very early stage.

He said that at the beginning of last September "blacklisting" had started. On September 7 the TUC's annual meeting was addressed on the Grunwick dispute and on October 6 Mr Roy Grantham, Apex general secretary, asked Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, for assistance.

Only on October 15 was the first mention made of using the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) to try to settle the dispute.

Mr Heald asked the court of inquiry to consider why the dispute had become a cause célèbre. One reason was that Apex had come to regard the

dispute as a test case and its officials devoted much time and effort to making it one.

A possible explanation for that was that the union did not think the Employment Protection Act went far enough in dealing with the sort of recognition dispute taking place at Grunwick. But the union understood that "the company, under the law as it now stands, is doing nothing wrong when strikers are given notice of dismissal after they go on strike in breach of their contracts of employment."

There had been no evidence of grievances about pay and conditions before the dispute began. If one compared pay and conditions of employment, Grunwick could be seen to be no worse than employers in other small businesses.

Mr Heald said the "amazing interest" shown by the media in the dispute had resulted in certain myths, such as the number of people on strike. It was nothing like the two or three hundred that had been claimed. Nor were those who walked out last August dismissed for joining a union.

Mr Peter Diffey, Grunwick's assistant general manager, questioned by Mr Stuart Shields, QC for Apex, said a 15 per cent pay increase awarded in November was to counter inflation. Asked by Mr Shields if he had heard anybody saying it was a rise for loyalty, Mr Diffey replied: "No, I am sure of that."

Big changes in economic relationship with developing countries

British Council helps to sell the nation's skills abroad

In the second part of a survey on the work of the British Council, Ian Bradley reports on the Council's work in developing countries.

The British Council is one of the most important British agencies working in the field of world development. This year it received £12.5m, or about a quarter of its budget from the Ministry of Overseas Development and it undertakes many projects on behalf of the ministry in Africa, Asia and South America.

The council's traditional task has been the recruitment of British teachers and the provision of educational and technical assistance for developing countries. That is still an important part of its work, as is the task of bringing overseas visitors to Britain.

It arranged for more than 28,000 visitors to come to Britain last year, most of them from developing countries. Organizing such visits can often bring unexpected difficulties for the council's staff.

An agricultural scientist recently arrived by air from South America with a briefcase full of banana seeds which he insisted must be planted in the right kind of soil within the next 24 hours.

One of the most important aspects of the British Council's work in developing countries is its low-price book scheme. It runs jointly with British publishers the English Language Book Society, which provides cheap editions of basic textbooks, ranging from English Prepositional Idioms to Soil Conditions and Plant Growth.

Nearly 19,000,000 copies of the low-price books, covering 723 titles, have been produced so far.

The council is moving away from providing direct primary aid to developing countries and is moving increasingly into such secondary fields as teacher training and administration.

As the nations of the third world amass their own paper-work and bureaucracy they are sending people to Britain to learn how to run a national archives system and to pick up useful hints on managing an efficient postal system. The British Council organizes visits to the Public Record Office and the Post Office sorting office at Mount Pleasant, London.

As the style of its development work changes so do the countries on which the British Council particularly concentrates its attention.

It is becoming increasingly involved with such countries as Nigeria, Malaysia and Mexico, which are moving towards self-sustained economic growth. These countries are often able, and willing, to finance projects themselves.

The changed economic relationship with developing countries has led the British Council to establish a new side to its activities in the past two years. Under the heading of paid educational services, it has

initiated many projects financed jointly by Britain and the developing country.

Such projects have been particularly prolific in the Middle East, where the demand for British technical and educational knowledge is strong, and is matched by the ability to pay for it.

At present the council is helping the Iranians to set up a school of nautical studies by providing specialist manpower and consultancy in partnership with the Southampton School of Marine Engineering and the Southampton School of Navigation.

That type of project, in which the British Council acts as middle man between developing countries wanting British skills and British agencies able to supply them, is likely to be increasingly in demand.

It is potentially a very profitable field, as is the council's work in teaching the English language. In the words of Sir John Hlewella, the council's

director-general, that instruction is "a very hot commodity at the moment".

By the terms of its charter, and the natural inclination of all involved in it, the British Council is not in business to make profits.

The funds it receives from English language teaching and its paid educational services are used to subsidize its cultural activities. But it is very well placed to stimulate the "invisible" exports of skills and services on which Britain's economic future depends.

The offices of the British Council throughout the world have channelled much business to private language schools, architects and design consultants and educational establishments. It may, perhaps, be no bad thing that the promotion of those vital export earnings should be left in the hands of a body that is itself seen to be completely free of both political and commercial ties.

Couched.

Helicopter pilot was a misfit, employers say

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

Captain Peter Royston, the pilot at the centre of the seven-week strike at Bristow Helicopters in Aberdeen, was described as a disruptive misfit by the company when the public inquiry into the dispute opened in Glasgow yesterday.

Mr Michael Tugendhat, for Bristow, told Lord McDonald, the inquiry chairman, that the company had acted correctly in dismissing him.

He said that within six months of joining Bristow Captain Royston, with another pilot, had organized meetings at Aberdeen, the base for Bristow's North Sea helicopter operation. The meetings were to discuss difficulties and a representative of the British Air Line Pilots Association (BALPA) was invited to speak to the pilots in May last year.

Mr Tugendhat admitted that the company much preferred pilots not to join BALPA, although it had always been prepared to employ association members and had not treated them any differently.

The company had "by perfectly legitimate means, sought to discourage their pilots from joining BALPA because they felt it would not be possible to operate a predominantly international operation with an entirely United Kingdom based union. It would introduce a rigidity into their conditions and pay structure incompatible with their international operations."

Four pilots' representatives had discussed the difficulty with the management and rejected a suggestion that Captain Royston should be transferred to a smaller operation within the company. It seemed inappropriate, Mr Tugendhat said, that someone who had just joined should seek to change the structure of the company so radically.

He said complaints were made about Captain Royston's conduct to Captain John Odlin, operations manager, and other pilots asked not to be rostered to fly with him. The operations manager thought he could be described as a misfit.

After Captain Royston had rejected two offers of overseas postings he was warned that refusal would entitle the company to end his contract.

The company believed it had a clear contractual right to move Captain Royston, whether in his personality fitted in Aberdeen. If it was wrong about that, the fact that he was a misfit gave the company an alternative contractual right to move him.

The strike by Bristow pilots began on April 15 and lasted until June 16. The pilots had been told that they were in breach of contract for refusing to fly according to the company roster.

Mr Tugendhat said the company agreed to arbitrate with Captain Royston. If it had been found that the company was bound to keep him in Aberdeen until the end of his contract, it would pay or restate him.

Captain Royston had agreed to that, and the pilots had voted by 30 to 12 to return to work. But after the vote he changed his mind. Some pilots went back to work but most continued the strike, and their dismissal notices were issued.

"The reason why fifty or more pilots went on strike in April was not a dispute over the terms of Royston's contract," Mr Tugendhat maintained. "It was because there was a strongly felt view by a minority that they wanted a radical reorganization in Aberdeen."

"Most of the pilots did not support this, and the company was strongly opposed to it."

He added that there was great tension in April because British Airways helicopter pilots were to receive a substantial pay award and Bristow's award was not due until July. The minority of pilots, he said, had picked a fight over the Royston issue but it was an issue where the company was in the right.

The management had recommended Captain Royston's removal from Aberdeen because he was disruptive and a misfit. Reading from correspondence between Captain Royston and the company, Mr Tugendhat said the pilot refused to be posted overseas because he wanted to stay in Scotland and go sailing. Captain Royston had made a request for a month's leave to go sailing in his yacht.

That was a "rather curious background for an issue of principle."

The inquiry continues today.



Sir Bernard Miles with schoolchildren at a preview of "Children's Books of the Year". The exhibition, organized by the National Book League, in Albemarle Street, London, opens today. Diary, page 14.

Most house-buyers are disappointed

By Margaret Stone

More than half the people who change houses fail to obtain a house with the number of rooms they had in mind.

That is one of the facts reported after a survey into house-buying by the Alliance Building Society housing research unit at Surrey University.

The society is celebrating having reached £1,000m of assets by sponsoring research by the university's department of psychology to increase the knowledge of house-purchase practices.

Other facts in the first report are that the likelihood of buying

an older house is low and that people usually have to buy newer houses than they want.

People in rural areas tend to move more frequently than those in large conurbations. In spite of this statistics of house-buying people move on average about once every five years.

Mr Roy Cox, chief general manager of Alliance, yesterday explained his society's plans to help first-time and young house-buyers. It is expanding the deferred interest mortgage scheme to allow borrowers, on a rising income scale, to borrow up to four times their income with interest two points lower for the first five years.

The society's other low-start scheme, the "easy-start mortgage" has had its upper limit increased to cover houses up to £17,000. The borrower is now allowed an advance of up to three times his present income. In the first three years he pays one point less than the recommended mortgage rate. In the 18 months since the scheme was introduced more than £3m has been lent to first-time buyers.

Mr Cox said yesterday that despite low interest rates in the early part of the year Alliance had maintained a high level of lending.

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Couched.

Pier in fire insured for less than value

Soudhead council is being urged to approve an insurance payment of £408,434 in respect of a fire last year in which the resort's pierhead was badly damaged.

The council's policy on resources committee has accepted the payment with regret after being told that the pier was undamaged.

At the time of the fire, it which damaged estimated a £1.4m was caused, the pier was valued at £4,675,000, but it was insured for only £760,000. A increase in cover was being negotiated. Agreement has not yet been reached on the claim for loss of contents.

School rebels warned of court action

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, threatened yesterday to take Birmingham Education Authority to court to decide whether she has the right to ask it to submit proposals for going fully comprehensive.

Birmingham was one of six authorities to which she gave six months to submit proposals for full comprehensive reorganization from last January. Her order was made under the Education Act, 1976.

The Birmingham authority has maintained that Mrs Williams has no power to ask for information concerning the reorganization plans for seven voluntary grammar schools.

In a letter to Birmingham disclosed yesterday, Mrs Williams says she has no alternative but to have the validity of her requirements decided in the courts as quickly as possible.

She has told the Treasury Solicitor to start proceedings forthwith to obtain a declaration in the High Court.

But Mrs Williams offers an escape route for Birmingham. If the authority is prepared to comply with her requirement she is prepared to extend the time limit, which expired yesterday.

If the issue goes to court, it will be the first test case between Mrs Williams and a local authority on the 1976 Act.

Scheme to help needy children tells of friction

A six-point scheme to improve cooperation between teachers and social workers trying to help children in need was outlined today by the Centre on Educational Disadvantage.

The centre, which is funded by the Department of Education and Science, says that professionals whose responsibility is to care for the disadvantaged often find it difficult to work amicably together. Each is anxious to preserve his professional autonomy and independence.

The centre has produced 12 case studies in which teachers and social workers work well together. They include the appointment of a social worker in each of the London boroughs of Haringey's comprehensive, and a Bicester "coordinator" who brings together all the services involving the vulnerable child.

The study document, Co-operation in Care, says it is helpful if any teacher is nominated to form a link with external helping agencies.

'Kenya Airways announce the departure of their daily flight to Nairobi'

Fly to Kenya the Kenyan way!
Flights leave London every day at 19.30
eff. May 1st. From July 1st to Sept. 30th there is an additional flight on Sundays.

Destinations beyond Nairobi include the fast-growing holiday spots of Mauritius and the Seychelles.

As a member of IATA, Kenya Airways offer you all the standards of service and protection you associate with any large airline.

For information, reservations, etc. contact your travel agent or:
Kenya Airways,
13 New Burlington St., London W.1.
Phone 01-734 3865 or 01-437 8163.

● HEATHROW
Daily at 19.30



Sweden proves seat belts cut casualties

By Our Motoring Correspondent

The case for compulsory seat-belt wearing is strengthened by a report from Sweden which shows that deaths and serious injuries to front-seat car occupants have fallen by half since compulsion was introduced.

The survey, by Volvo, the Swedish car manufacturer, covered nearly five thousand accidents.

The 2,969 accidents that occurred before the seat-belt law came into force in January 1975 caused 108 deaths and serious injuries. But the 2,026 that took place afterwards caused only 36, a reduction in the casualty rate of about half.

The survey also shows a change in the character of injuries. Severe and fatal chest injuries have fallen by 54 per cent. Head and face injuries fell by 64 per cent and 43 per cent respectively. It was found that 53 per cent of drivers and front-seat passengers wore belts after the legislation, compared with only 31 per cent before.

It is officially estimated that the compulsory wearing of seat belts would prevent a thousand deaths and 11,000 serious injuries a year. Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, is committed to legislation as soon as parliamentary time can be found. A Bill was introduced in the Commons last year but failed to get a third reading.

Mr Ray Hunter, director of the board's western area, said: "Mining operations will not return to the area for several years, and then they will not be in the same form."

He said that if the exceptional geological circumstances surrounding the mining in the area had contributed to the tremors the residents should now be free on them.

After the most recent tremor, last week, residents called for an immediate end to mining and the coal board's decision was welcomed yesterday.



TUC award: Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, left, congratulating Mr Roy Leeming, of Preston, Lancashire, winner of the 1977 TUC youth award. Mr Leeming, aged 21, is a member of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff and of his local Labour Party.

Tremor-area mining to end

From Our Correspondent
Stoke-on-Trent

The National Coal Board is to stop mining under Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent, after more than a hundred earth tremors in the past two years. It said yesterday that work would cease in three weeks, when the seam was worked out.

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return to the area for several years, and then they will not be in the same form."

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Doctors among six on drug charges

Six people, including two doctors and a chemist, were committed at Swindon Magistrates' Court yesterday in custody for trial at Bristol Crown Court on drug charges.

Before the court were Richard Hilary Kemp, aged 33, a chemist, and Dr Christine Barr, aged 31, both of Blencarnon, Tregaron, Dyfed; David Joseph Solomon, aged 51, an author, of Ramdolph Avenue, Westminster; Henry Barclay

Todd, aged 32, of Cannon Street, Road, Tower Hamlets, London; Russell Stephen Spenceley, of Maesycroft, Dyfed; and Dr Mark Campbell Tcherney, of Cwmbran, Dyfed.

Dr Bobb, Mr Kemp, Mr Solomon and Mr Todd face charges of conspiracy to possess LSD unlawfully at Cambridge and elsewhere and, with Mr Spenceley, adding labelling others to possess LSD. Dr Bobb, Mr Kemp and Mr Solomon are further charged with conspiracy to produce and supply

LSD at Carmo, Powys, and elsewhere.

Dr Tcherney is charged with conspiracy to supply LSD; with possessing 50,000 tablets containing LSD with intent to supply; and with unlawful possession of 12.5 grams of cannabis resin.

Dr Bobb is further charged with unlawful possession of 540 milligrams of cannabis resin at Swindon on March 31 and, with Mr Kemp, 702 milligrams at Tregaron, on March 26.

Reforms sought in training of mentally handicapped

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Mr Morris, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Disabled, appealed yesterday to managers of "old-fashioned" adult training centres for the mentally handicapped to abandon old ideas of work and occupation.

The latest pamphlet from the National Development Group for the Mentally Handicapped, "The people in them," being read by Mr Morris to students rather than trainees. Day Services for Mentally Handicapped Adults (National Development Group for the Mentally Handicapped, Room C112, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY, free).

The pamphlet, published yesterday, calls for a radical change in the philosophy behind the adult training centres. They should be renamed "social education centres", the people in them being regarded as students rather than trainees.

Mr Morris said that the excuse that they did not know their practice was not in the best interest of people they were trying to help.

Mr Morris told an Anglo-American conference at Middlesex Polytechnic that the pamphlet was not a revolutionary document but a collection of all the best practice in adult training centres. "It would enable individual managers to take ideas from it that best suited their individual circumstances."

"Mentally handicapped people are capable of doing much more for themselves than many people believe is possible," Mr Morris said. "But the progress we make does not come about by accident. It has to be worked for."

The people doing the work, whether patients or hospital and local authority staff, must know not only the techniques of

training and teaching. They must also understand what they were trying to achieve, what facilities were available and which people could help them. They must know more easily and effectively. That was what the pamphlet was about.

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The call comes after a survey of 61,000 patients in 84 psychiatric hospitals, which shows that many are still forced to remain there for long periods because they have nowhere else to go and because rehabilitation is not being given enough emphasis.

Of the hospitals surveyed, 50 said they had between them nearly four thousand patients who could be discharged immediately if they had somewhere to go. But the lack of community facilities for them at the end of any rehabilitation programme demonstrates hospital staff, the MIND report says.

They see little point in rehabilitating patients who have no homes to go to, no hope of after-care facilities in the community and no support. The MIND report, Better Prospects, Rehabilitation in Mental Illness Hospitals by Joanna Murray (MIND, 22 Harley Street, London, W1N 2ED; £1.50).

Call for greater emphasis on rehabilitation

EAST EUROPE

Spain tightens price controls to save easy labour truce

July 19.—Spain's government today accepted a new trade union agreement with the Communist-dominated trade union organization, in a move to avert a campaign which is bound to be controversial for the establishment of a single united trade union movement to embrace all workers.

A statement issued last night after a two-day meeting of the General Union of Workers and the Sindical Work Union to join the Commission in a united labour organization. Observers believe that the campaign is unlikely to succeed.

The General Union is the trade union wing of the Spanish Workers' Socialist Party which has 116 seats in the Congress while the Communists have only 20.

The Commissions have proposed the holding of a constituent congress leading to a trade union unit. Agreement was also reached at the Commissions meeting on calling for direct negotiations with the Government over its economic programme. The executive committee rejected a "social pact", saying that it would only deteriorate the situation.

Prison protest: Police helicopters dropped smoke bombs today on about 600 prisoners demonstrating on the roof of Madrid's Carabanchel prison for the second consecutive day for an amnesty and better conditions.

Monument plan for man 38 years in hiding

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, July 19

The town council of Cerecedilla where Señor Protasio Montalvo, aged 77, has come out of hiding for the first time since the Spanish civil war, is considering erecting a monument to him, Señor Enrique Espinosa, the Mayor, told me today.

Señor Montalvo, who was the village's Socialist mayor for part of the civil war, decided yesterday to come out of his home to breathe the new democratic air on the forty-first anniversary of the start of the war.

He emerged from the basement of the house where he spent most of his time on the advice of his son, who is the head of the Spanish Workers' Socialist Party (PSOE) in Cerecedilla. His son told him that as the PSOE now had 116 representatives in the Cortes (Parliament) he need not fear for his safety any more.

Not even his next door neighbours know of his existence. People in Cerecedilla assumed that he had been killed in the war. Only his wife, his three children and some of his seven grandchildren knew that he was in the house.

"He is now a member of this town like everyone else," said the mayor who, at 38, is exactly the same age as the number of years Señor Montalvo spent in hiding. "You can imagine that he is the talk of everyone here."



Señor Montalvo demonstrates how he used to hide under a bed when unexpected visitors called at his home.

Señor Montalvo was the last democratically elected Mayor of Cerecedilla. With municipal elections due to be held in Spain before the end of the year, many villagers have asked him whether he intends to stand for reelection. "Protasio told me that he has had enough of politics and thinks it is best to leave it to the younger generation," the Mayor told me.

Cerecedilla: Thin and pale, Señor Montalvo sat in the sunlight for the first time in 38 years today, talking with old friends who had believed him dead since 1939.

"There were only four or five fascists in this town, but they dominated everything until now," Señor Montalvo said in an interview in the small house in which he had lived secretly. "I dared not

even walk about this town, which has always been a socialist town, because the Franco regime was looking for officials from the Republican side."

"It was a long time, but it was not a bad time," he said, as his friends sat on the tiny terrace of his home 35 miles outside Madrid.

"I always knew he was alive, although I didn't know where," Señal Lorenzo Gutierrez, aged 69, one of Señor Montalvo's old friends said.

Señal Gutierrez, who first learned his childhood friend was alive when he saw the television news last night, was reunited with him today.

Señal Montalvo left the house only twice, in 1972 and 1973, to be driven to Madrid by night to see a doctor. When visitors came to the house, he hid under a bed.—AP.

Amnesty may increase tension in Italian jails

From Peter Nichols
Rome, July 19

A proposal from the governing Christian Democrats of an amnesty to cover comparatively minor crimes may worsen the normally turbulent atmosphere in Italy's overcrowded prisons.

The proposal by Signor Flaminio Piccoli, a Christian Democrat leader, caused surprise. Signor Bonifacio, the Minister of Justice, is known to be against the whole concept of amnesties and he was quick to authorize a statement saying so.

Amnesties, moreover, are regarded as an illustration of the mentality which prefers to avoid the difficulties of prison and judicial reforms by periodically opening the doors to free what are considered the less dangerous members of the prison community.

The potential dangers inherent in talking publicly about amnesties are clear from the fundamental statistics of prison life. Of the 34,000 prison inmates, nearly 18,000 are awaiting trial and this proportion has increased over the years. The majority of those in custody awaiting trial at any time are accused of minor offences and it is estimated that about 40 per cent are later—much later—cleared.

Meanwhile, their conditions grow worse, with jails now regarded as schools both for common crime and for indoctrination in terrorist ideas and practices.

Brussels criticism of Britain acknowledged

David Wood

Owen, the Foreign Secretary, acknowledged in a White Paper published yesterday that there has been some criticism of the British position in the EEC.

But Mr. Wood said that the British position in the EEC was "a matter of course" and that the British position in the EEC was "a matter of course".

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masters where the interests of member states do not coincide, and we have sought to exercise our presidential responsibility to find a balance of advantage and to concentrate attention on areas of common interest and of benefit to all."

No special mention is made of the labour of Mr. John Silkin, the Minister of Agriculture, but it is noted that the fixing of Community support prices this year was contentious.

There are continuing problems in the operation of the common agricultural policy, the White Paper says, adding that the divergence of interests which exists in the Community will take time to resolve.

On enlarging the EEC, it says the economic problems are not to be underestimated, "but the Community must support democracy and social justice among its neighbours."

Development in the European Community: the United Kingdom Presidency (Canal 585, Sunday Office, 75p).

EC puts off decision on New Zealand prices

Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, July 19

The European Commission today postponed at least two months a decision on whether to grant New Zealand exporters an increase in prices they receive for their butter and cheese.

The study done by the British Ministry of Agriculture, however, is not yet complete, and the Commission should be given a rise, and a firm decision expected at their first meeting after the summer holidays.

London, Mr. Brian Talbot, the New Zealand Deputy Minister, said he was disappointed by the lack of a decision today, but expressed confidence that the need for a

price rise had not been seriously disputed.

The European Commission had proposed a 10 per cent price rise for both butter and cheese to take effect from August 1. This would have no effect on shop prices in Britain since the increase would be achieved by reducing by a corresponding percentage the special duties levied on relatively cheap New Zealand dairy products to bring them up to higher EEC price levels.

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TUESDAY NIGHT IN ZANZIBAR. THEY'RE WATCHING THAMES TELEVISION.

Time was when the countries watching Thames Television didn't even run from A to B, let alone to Z. But now Zanzibar has become the hundredth country to buy Thames programmes for its own television service.

In four short years, under Managing Director Muir Sutherland, Thames Television International has brought export sales up above the £3,000,000 mark. They've done it by creative, aggressive selling in world markets of the programmes we make for audiences here in the UK.

The World at War to 64 countries, including Germany, Italy and Japan. *Jeremie, Lady Randolph Churchill* to 41 countries, and *The Sweeney* to 34.

Father, Dear Father to 29 countries, and children's series like *The Tomorrow People*, so far seen in 32 countries.

Thames Television is a British company that makes only one product: TV programmes on film and videotape. Where we diversify is in the language of our audience.



Thames Television International: British programmes for the world

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306-316 Euston Road
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01-387 9494

Britain dumps 2,250 tonnes nuclear waste in the sea

Our Own Correspondent
London, July 19

Britain finished a radioactive waste dumping operation in the North Sea yesterday, the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD announced here today. In all, the end of the year, concrete containers containing 2,250 tonnes of radioactive waste were dropped into the sea at a specially approved site.

The British waste means that the total of 46,000 tonnes has now been dumped into the ocean by European countries since 1967. Last month, Holland and Switzerland dumped 4,180 tonnes into these underwater dumps under a similar permit from the agency.

The waste can be at most only moderately radioactive for such a permit and includes such things as by-products from nuclear research and contaminated clothing. The dumps are all at about 2,500 fathoms and at least 625 miles from the nearest European coastline.

The agency is now adopting new multilateral consultation and surveillance mechanisms for controlling the dumping of radioactive waste at sea.

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WEST EUROPE

Italian leader rejects Giscard attack on Carter policies

From Ian Murray Paris, July 19

Signor Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, emerged from lunch with President Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysee Palace here today to say that he disagreed with his host's views on the dangers to détente of President Carter's foreign policy.

"President Carter is not compromising détente," he said. "I think that President Carter is engaged in defending the status quo. When he speaks of the rights of man and of civil rights he is asserting a belief that is common to us all."

Mr Carter is in the first months of his international experience, and he is bound to spell his politics out a little."

Signor Andreotti said Italy hoped the European countries and the United States would be able to find a common line on détente, at the Belgrade conference.

Questioned about the role of the Italian Communists in supporting his Government—a burning question in France with the possibility of French Communists coming to power in the elections next year—he said NATO was in no way compromised by their presence, since for at least a year they had publicly supported the alliance.

Asked if Italy could be a model for France, he replied: "The French and Italian situations are entirely different. We have no pretensions to become a model for France."

Signor Andreotti returned to Rome during the afternoon.

ing a model. We are only looking for stable government."

Italy was keen on the enlargement of the EEC and was working with France to prevent any problems arising on that score.

Signor Andreotti's visit was organized along the lines of the Franco-Italian summit in Pisa last year as one of a series of regular meetings between leaders of the two countries.

Offering a toast at the Elysee luncheon, President Giscard d'Estaing underlined the convergence of views between the two countries, above all on the development of Europe after the introduction of direct elections to the European Parliament.

They also agreed on the politics of détente and the approach to the double problem of preventing proliferation of nuclear arms while meeting the necessity of developing electricity from atomic energy.

There was also unanimity of views on the Middle East, on African development and on the need to strengthen relations in technology, industry and agriculture.

With particular concern being shown for the problems of agriculture round the Mediterranean, the two leaders agreed in principle to set up a commission charged with looking into ensuring the future of farming in the Mediterranean area.

Signor Andreotti returned to Rome during the afternoon.

Gastronomic delights at summit

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, July 19

President Giscard d'Estaing and Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, were tonight holding one of their regular meetings in Bliesheim, a village just outside Strasbourg. Over a quiet dinner, they were to discuss nuclear affairs.

Their restaurant, Au Boeuf, rates one star in the Michelin Guide and is recommended by the Guide-Millau guide for its choucroute.

The two leaders were to be served petite marmite Henry IV, tournedos à la strasbourgeoise (with pâté de foie gras) and raspberry parfait. A local castle supplied furniture for the dining room, and the Post Office installed some extra telephone lines.

The restaurant seems to have been a haunt of French Presidents. General de Gaulle, René Coty and Albert Lebrun have all dined there.

Above the entrance is the motto in the Alsace dialect: *Kume d'ner ritt, will er nitte* (whoever comes in here does not want to go out). The two leaders were due to be flown to their respective capitals after dinner.

Queen tries to solve Dutch crisis

The Hague, July 19.—Queen Juliana today called political leaders for talks at her palace in an attempt to break the deadlock in forming a new Government.

The move followed the failure by Mr Joop den Uyl, the caretaker Prime Minister, to put together a new Cabinet, and the refusal to do so by Mr Andries van Agt, the Justice Minister. Mr den Uyl's Socialist Party and the Christian Democrats, led by Mr van Agt, have been unable to agree on proposed Socialist legislation to let workers share in company profits.

It was widely believed that the Queen would name a senior political figure to study the situation and report to her, or else try to form a Cabinet herself.

The Socialists emerged with 53 seats in the 150-seat Lower House at the general election in May and the Christian Democrats won 49, making an equal partnership between them vital for an effective administration. Without the Socialists, the Christian Democrats would have to seek an alliance with the right-wing Liberal Party VVD—AP.

French ruling parties plan strategy for election

From Charles Hargrove Paris, July 19

After the sharp setback for the government majority in the French municipal elections last March—a setback largely attributed to the divisions between the parties composing it—the watchword proclaimed on all sides was unity.

Yet it has taken four months, and further dissensions, for the leaders of three of the parties to get round a table today to make a start at laying the bases of a strategy to fight the parliamentary elections next spring.

M Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, the president of the Radical Socialist Party, who likes to strike his own independent line in most things, refused to attend the meeting at the Centre's headquarters

because M Barre, the Prime Minister, was not going to be present.

A belated spirit of compromise is apparent in the communiqué published this evening after four and a half hours of discussion between Gaullists, Republicans and Centreists.

It says the three parties agreed on electoral tactics and on a code of good conduct for the candidates of the government majority, such as the avoidance of polemics between them and an automatic withdrawal in favour of the one best placed when an election in a constituency goes to a second ballot.

The communiqué emphasizes the parties' "profound agreement on the principles and institutions of the Fifth Republic guaranteed by the President."

Civilian driver faces British court martial

Düsseldorf, July 19.—A British civilian driver went on trial before a court martial of five army officers here today charged with causing bodily harm to another British in a trade union dispute.

Sydney Carter, a driver employed by Naafi, was alleged to have driven a heavy goods vehicle which knocked down a Naafi manager while breaking a strike picket line.—Reuter.

Gifts to hostages

The Hague, July 19.—The Dutch Government is to make financial awards to hostages held by the South Moluccan terrorists. About 100 adults will get 3,000 guilders (£715) each and 100 children 1,000 guilders each.

Terrorist suspect expelled

Stockholm, July 19.—Takemoto Takahashi, aged 42, described by police as a leading figure in Japan's Red Army urban guerrilla group, was expelled from Sweden for Japan today after being charged with causing bodily harm to another British in a trade union dispute.

A Government communiqué said that Mr Takahashi was expelled according to provisions in the Terrorist Act.

He was arrested in Stockholm on July 12 for allegedly planning actions to coincide

Customs strike in Malta to support doctors

Valletta, July 19.—The Confederation of Malta Trade Unions today ordered all its members in the Malta customs to strike for three days from tomorrow in protest at the Socialist Government's legislation restricting the right of surgeons and doctors to strike in Government hospitals.

The legislation passed yesterday after a heated debate, lists 62 doctors who have been forbidden to strike. The Medical Association of Malta has threatened a complete withdrawal of medical services.

The new legislation gives the doctors until Thursday to resume Government health service work or be dismissed. Government hospitals are at present being run by some 40 doctors sent in by Arab countries and Czechoslovakia.—UPI.

OVERSEAS

Mr Teng reinstated in his former posts

From David Bonavia Hongkong, July 19

The long-awaited rehabilitation of Mr Teng Hsiao-ping to his former posts in the Chinese hierarchy is foreshadowed by the appearance of wall posters in Peking.

According to reports from the capital, Mr Teng has been acclaimed as a Deputy Prime Minister, vice-chairman of the Communist Party and the party's military affairs commission, and Chief of Staff of the armed forces. He is thus reinstated to the posts which he lost as a result of the vendetta conducted against him last year by Chairman Mao Tse-tung's now disgraced widow, Chiang Ching.

The announcements of Mr Teng's rehabilitation to a virtual position of eminence came behind Chairman Hua Guo-feng came somewhat earlier than expected. They are not official yet, and may require the endorsement of party and state congresses to be held within the next month or two.

The disclosure of Mr Teng's return to power closed the circle of his rehabilitation in 1973, his disgrace after the Peking riots in April last year, and the subsequent ousting of Mao's widow and her associates in the so-called "Gang of four". It confirms reports that differences concerning his rehabilitation among senior party and military leaders had been largely resolved after uncertainty following the purge of the "gang" last October.

Mr Teng is known as an implacable foe of the Soviet Union, and an advocate of greatly increased trade and technological exchange between China and the developed world. The reason why Mr Teng has been named Deputy Prime Minister—Chairman Hua still holds the post of Prime Minister himself—is probably a reflection of his rather poor record in handling diplomatic negotiations. He will now be able to devote his energies



Mr Teng Hsiao-ping: Implacable foe of the Soviet Union.

able to devote his energies mainly to internal matters, rather than to protocol. A widely tipped candidate for the post of Prime Minister is Mr Chi Teng-kuei, a Politburo member whose present functions are somewhat vaguely defined.

The informal manner of announcing Mr Teng's rehabilitation is reminiscent of that in which Mr Hua was acclaimed Chairman last October. The next political moves expected are a plenary session of the party Central Committee followed by a new party congress and a National People's Congress (a meeting of China's rubber-stamp parliament). It was reported earlier this year that Mr Teng had demanded these formal meetings to put

the official seal on his return to power.

Mr Teng, who is 74, commands widespread respect among Chinese workers and intellectuals. His prestige has shot up as a result of the vitriolic campaign against him by the "gang" last year before their disgrace. His well-tested talents as a party organizer and economic planner are badly needed by Chairman Hua's leadership group, which lacks public confidence.

China now seems set on a course of relatively stable leadership with the emphasis on economic construction and external links, rather than on ideology and "self-sufficiency" which were so widely propagated in the last years of Mao Tse-tung's life.

In brief

Soweto police chief's visitors

Anti-apartheid demonstrators yesterday walked in on Brigadier Jan Visser, chief of police in Soweto, South Africa, at his suite in the Carlton Towers Hotel, London.

They said they received "a fairly cordial reception". After about half-an-hour they left at the request of hotel security men. One of the group said they found Brigadier Visser "up and dressed, sitting reading *The Daily Telegraph*".

Death for saboteur

Nairobi, July 19.—A Ugandan militant, Patrick Olowo, sentenced to death for sabotage, a post office technician, to death for sabotage. He was said to have conspired with others to disconnect a radio communications centre near Kampala.

Ghana strike ends

Accra, July 19.—Ghana's doctors, lawyers, engineers and other professional people returned to work after ending a 15-day strike in support of a return to civilian rule, the Ghana news agency reported.

Belated justice

The state of Massachusetts is to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary next month of the execution of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti by proclaiming that they were denied a fair trial.

Thalidomide award

Vancouver, July 19.—A judge here awarded \$1m (£580,000) damages to a 14-year-old Canadian girl who sued an American drug manufacturer because she was deformed at birth by thalidomide.

Majority of three

Tokyo, July 19.—Official party standings show that after the elections on July 10 Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party has an effective majority of three in the 252-seat Upper House.

KGB summons

Moscow, July 19.—A Soviet physicist, seeking to emigrate to Israel, said he had been summoned for questioning by the KGB tomorrow afternoon.

Chess draw

Geneva, July 19.—Boris Spassky and Lejos Portisch settled on a draw after 18 moves of a seventh round game in their world chess championship semi-final. Both now have 3.5 points.

African nationalists on all sides reject Smith plan

From Frederick Cleary Salisbury, July 19

Mr Ian Smith's sudden decision to hold a general election as part of a complicated process which he hopes will lead to an internal political settlement in Rhodesia has been greeted with mixed reaction here.

Some whites say an election will clear the air after the recent turmoil brought about by the defection of 11 Rhodesians from Members of Parliament to form a new right-wing party. But most whites seem to be wondering if it is all necessary and if a proper general election can be held at a time when the country is plagued by civil war.

Beset with politics for so long, white Rhodesians can be excused if they show little enthusiasm for the weeks of electioneering ahead. Most black Rhodesians regard it as a white man's affair. Two key nationalist leaders, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, today rejected the Prime Minister's move.

Bishop Muzorewa said that when Mr Smith spoke of forming a broad-based government by the end of the year, he meant some form of arrangement whereby "his unilateral declaration of independence will be recognized, I will definitely have no part in that sort of arrangement", he said.

Mr Smith's aim is a multi-racial government based on an internal agreement. If he is successful this could become a reality inside a year, possibly nine months.

Political observers here read the scenario as follows: A general election is held on August 31 to enable Mr Smith to reunite the majority of the white electorate and to elect under the Rhodesian Front banner. If he regains his two-thirds majority in Parliament he can draw up a new constitution which would have its built-in safeguards for minority groups and other desired legislation which he says the British have refused.

The underlying objective of the new constitution would be a multi-racial administration. The new constitution would be put to a referendum before the end of the year and, if approved, would be given final approval by Parliament, which would then vote itself out of existence.

The next step would be a fresh general election under the new constitution early next year. It is a plan fraught with difficulties and already Mr Smith is finding little support.

Mr Mugabe, the black nationalist leader, said today the calling of an election in Rhodesia was irrelevant. He told a press conference that Mr Smith should resign and "leave the people to decide the future of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)".

Mr Joshua Nkomo, Mr Mugabe's co-leader of the Rhodesian Front, said here that the election "did not affect the situation at all."

"It is just a matter of fascists of bandits reshuffling themselves," Mr Nkomo said.—Reuter and Agence France-Press.

Life for giving CIA codes to Soviet Union

Los Angeles, July 19.—Andrew Lee, convicted for providing secret codes to the Soviet Union, was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday in what the judge called a warning to others that "this is a game you do not play."

Mr Richard Stone, an assistant federal attorney, in asking for the life sentence, called Mr Lee's actions "the most serious crimes a person could possibly commit."

He said that Mr Lee, who was arrested outside the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City in January after having thrown a paper on to the embassy lawn, had provided the Russians with coding cards which enabled them to decode top-secret messages of the United States Central Intelligence Agency.—Reuter.

Beigin-Carter talks on peace proposals

From Patrick Brogan Washington, July 19

Welcoming Mr Menachem Beigin, the Prime Minister of Israel, at the White House today, President Carter said that they shared a deep sincerity of purpose, and that their common goal was to find a path to permanent peace.

The President was rather less buoyantly optimistic than earlier this year when welcoming Mr Beigin as a leader of the Middle East peace talks, and merely said that this year might bring peace to the Middle East.

Mr Beigin said that he and Mr Carter might have differences of opinion, "but we will never disagree. We will agree to differ." He hoped that Mr Carter would come to visit Israel and promised him a warm welcome in Jerusalem.

The ceremony was mercifully short. The sun was blazing and the temperature was in the mid-twenties at 10.30 am, and it was expected to reach 100°F (38°C) later. Vice-President Mondale was present, together with members of the Cabinet. The President's mother was watching from a shaded balcony.

Mr Beigin has brought peace proposals which he disclosed to Mr Carter after the ceremony. He will have several meetings with Mr Carter and will also meet Mr Michael Blumenthal, the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr Harold Brown, the Secretary of Defense, the House and Senate foreign relations com-

mittees, members of Congress and Mr George Meany, the president of the AFL-CIO, the trade union organization.

His real business is with the President, with Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, and with Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser.

Mr Vance plans to visit the Middle East next week. There have been suggestions that Mr Beigin may ask whether Mr Vance could postpone the visit until late August. This may not be possible as Mr Vance is going to China then.

The Israelis want the Geneva conference on the Middle East to convene on October 10 and hope to obtain Mr Carter's support for it. Mr Beigin and Mr Carter both consider it important to establish a personal relationship and to find out what the limits of the other's opinions on the future of the Middle East may be.

Mr Beigin will discuss arms sales and military aid with Mr Brown and economic relations with Mr Blumenthal who is a Jewish refugee from Germany. Kuwait, King Hussein of Jordan arrived in Kuwait today on the first leg of a two-day tour of a number of Gulf states for talks, Kuwait radio said.

The Kuwait newspaper *Al Watan* said yesterday that King Hussein would bring suggestions on a proposed link between his kingdom and any future Palestinian entity that might be established in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.—UPI.

Egypt hands over war dead in Sinai

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, July 19

At a desert rendezvous in the Sinai buffer zone, Egypt today transferred to Israel 19 coffins said to contain the mortal remains of soldiers killed during the war in October, 1973.

Israeli officials said privately that the Egyptians set the time for the transfer to coincide with the meeting in Washington between President Carter and Mr Beigin, the Israeli Prime Minister, in a transparent attempt to project an image of moderation.

The military authorities here have declined to say how many victims of the 1973 war are buried in the Sinai. If press reports are correct, before today's repatriation there were 25 missing including 12 lost at sea. Moreover, 14 of the 48 bodies previously repatriated have been buried without identification.

Army officers firmly refused to unravel the mystery. They expressed anger over the publicity and said it had caused anguish among the families of the missing.

Washington denies PLO talks

Washington, July 19.—The State Department confirmed today that Mr William Scranton, former Governor of Pennsylvania, had met a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official in London last month but denied he was acting on behalf of President Carter.

The Beirut right-wing daily newspaper *Al-Ahram* had reported that Mr Scranton, acting for Mr Carter, had met Mr Basil Akl, a senior PLO official, in London on June 24.

The newspaper said Mr Scranton was continuing Washington-PLO contacts begun in May. While declining to comment on whether Prince Fahd had delivered such a message, the State Department said Mr Scranton, a former United States representative at the United Nations, had been acting in a personal capacity.

Beirut: A military tribunal acquitted Laga Gule, a Norwegian student arrested in Beirut on his way to plant a bomb in Israel, of terrorism, but said he had been in possession of explosives.—UPI.

Greek Cypriots still ask about the 2,000 who vanished

From Robert Fisk Nicosia, July 19

Just outside the Turkish half of Nicosia, villagers are decorating their streets with Turkish flags. The newly installed staves of Atatürk have been covered in banners and in a couple of days the Turkish Cypriots in Nicosia are to hold a dancing festival around their beautiful little harbour.

The "peace operation" as it is universally known north of the Attila line—for the Turks refuse to accept that their Army invaded Cyprus in 1974—is a matter for celebration.

About 400 yards from the dividing line in Nicosia, the Greeks have placed dozens of posters demanding to know the whereabouts of the 2,000 "missing" Greek Cypriots who disappeared during the Turkish intervention. They are referred to as missing because their bodies were never found; but there is little doubt that they are dead.

Yet much of the common reason, like any protest, aimed at foreigners. More than 100 journalists have arrived on the Greek side of Nicosia for long and so far very biased seminars run by Cypriot journalists and the Greek Cypriot administration.

The intercommunal toll have long ago become desecrated, principally over the redrawn map of Cyprus which the Greeks have submitted. It would bring almost half of present Turkish-controlled territory back under Greek control.

No one suggests publicly that the Cyprus problem is already been solved and the negotiations and one complaints and protests are a part of a process of normalising the military solution into politically acceptable one. But the Turks are going to give back little land to the Greeks the Greeks are not going to restore in their old homes to the north. The missing 2,000 are unlikely to be seen again.

Turkish coalition agreed

From Our Correspondent Ankara, July 19

Mr Süleyman Demirel, of the extreme right-wing Nationalist Action Party, had reached breaking point several times. The main point of discord was the distribution of such crucial portfolios as Finance, Education and the Interior which none of the three parties wanted to give up.

As soon as the President ratified the Cabinet list, Mr Bulent Ecevit, the caretaker Prime Minister, will return to the Opposition benches.

UN considers Vietnam plea for membership

From Our Correspondent New York, July 19

The United Nations Security Council discussed today whether Vietnam should be recommended for admission to the United Nations. A committee comprising all 15 council members has already voted for admission. This is the fourth time that Vietnam has submitted an application.

A United Nations source said that the council would adopt Vietnam's application without a formal show of hands.

Bangkok: Vietnam and Laos have concluded a series of sweeping economic and trade agreements that tie the future development of Laos even more closely to the future of Vietnam.

The 25-year agreements were signed yesterday at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Laos by a Vietnamese delegation, headed by Mr Le Duan, the Communist Party secretary-general and Pham Van Dong, the Prime Minister.

The agreements include financial aid and loans from Vietnam for Laos, a detailed border pact with military provisions and agreements on common approaches to a range of foreign policy and domestic issues.—New York Times Service.

No visitors for detained Pakistan leaders

From Our Correspondent Rawalpindi, July 19

Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, and detained members of his Cabinet have been deprived by the martial law authorities of their recently given facility to receive visitors.

A similar restriction on receiving visitors has been imposed today on opposition leaders of the Pakistan National Alliance. Mr Bhutto and his colleagues, as well as the opposition leaders who are all detained in Murree in different places, had been allowed to receive visitors since last Sunday after General Zia-ul-Haq had met them at the weekend.

A press statement explaining the reimposition of the ban on visitors said that the facility

given to the People's Party and Alliance leaders had been withdrawn because "the political leaders contrary to the commitment given by them, have misused the opportunity for the propagation of their political views and the raking up of political controversies."

The statement added that the martial law authorities had banned all forms of political activity, which included the holding and addressing of meetings, public or private, granting press interviews and issuing press statements. Violation of these restrictions would not be tolerated.

Only members of the families of the detained leaders may now have access to them, and permission must first be obtained from the local martial law

authorities, the statement said. The authorities are understood to have decided to withdraw the visiting facility because of hectic political activity by the detained leaders during the past two days.

It is understood that Mr Bhutto and his colleagues, as well as the opposition leaders, addressed large crowds from Rawalpindi and other parts of the country who have gathered to see them. Even General Tikka Khan, the former Cabinet colleague of Mr Bhutto, was said to have addressed a meeting. Crowds were reported to have chanted slogans at Sind House, where Mr Bhutto's former Cabinet Ministers are detained. Some people shouted against the martial law and some People's Party workers

grappled with guards outside Mr Bhutto's residence in Murree when they were prevented from entering.

Today's decision to reimpose the restrictions appears to have ended the prospect that the former Prime Minister and the other leaders might be released from protective custody by the weekend. They are now likely to be detained until the end of the month.

It was said that a convicted thief was publicly flogged in one of the first applications of the Islamic law decreed by Pakistan's new military rulers, it was reported today.

The man, who could have faced amputation of a hand, received 40 lashes before a big crowd in Muzaffargarh, Punjab.—Agence France-Press.

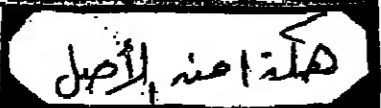
More Cuban personnel based in Angola

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, July 19

The number of Cuban troops and civilians in Angola has now risen to between 14,000 and 19,000, compared with earlier estimates of between 11,000 and 15,000, the United States State Department disclosed today.

Most of the increase appeared to be on the military side, a spokesman said. "We are watching the situation very closely."

He indicated that the United States administration had fairly clear ideas about the reason for the 30 per cent or so increase in Cuban personnel. But he refused to explain these publicly at the news briefing.



Has the fiasco of phase three finally shot a hole through the Lib-Lab pact?



Mr Steel and Mr Callaghan: what price now a renewal of the pact?

The Government's failure to negotiate a phase three has two particular political consequences. The first has been widely noted: the removal of Labour's principal advantage over the Conservatives—their reputed ability to cajole the unions not to exercise the power that would be theirs through the operation of market forces.

The second is the embarrassment of those who have put their faith in incomes policy. There are two groups who come into this category: the Liberals and many on the right-wing of the Labour Party.

The Liberals made a great play at the last election of their belief in a statutory incomes policy. They were the men of truth presenting the voters with the harsh reality with which any government would soon have to face them. Even though the policy that was later adopted was not statutory, the Liberals may reasonably be given two-thirds of the credit for prophecy. Nor has their faith in incomes policy been diminished by later experience.

When Mr David Steel set out his conditions a month ago for renewing the Lib-Lab pact particular importance was attached to a phase three of substance. The point has since been repeated so often and so recently that one is forced to conclude either the party has lost its prophetic touch or that it has a real conviction.

Now that there is to be no phase three the Liberals are in a dilemma from which they cannot be rescued by the pronouncement that they will not underwrite a wage explosion. Their contention up to now has been that a wage explosion could be averted, only by a firm incomes policy; yet all they are offered is essentially the Tory prescription to be imple-

mented by Labour ministers over Liberal doubts.

That may seem a somewhat insubstantial basis for the renewal of the Lib-Lab pact. It has indeed made virtually impossible the renewal of the pact for the whole of the next parliamentary session, as both sides had previously hoped. The most that can now be envisaged is a temporary or conditional renewal: possibly on a month-by-month basis or with a Liberal right to withdraw if wage inflation gets out of hand. It will be easier for them to contemplate a limited agreement of this nature because their attachment to incomes policy has come from belief in it as an expedient to keep wages under reasonable control at a time of inflationary pressures rather than as an essential feature of the Liberal society.

It is not a breach of faith to give another expedient a chance, even if that is done with a faint heart. A number on the social democratic wing of the Labour Party, however, are in a more uncomfortable position.

For some Labour right-wingers the incomes policies of the past two years have simply been the most practical means of preventing the hyper-inflation that was threatening in 1975. If another method can achieve the same end then they will be satisfied.

They have been influenced as much as most people these days, including the Government itself, by the growth of monetary doctrines. They have come to see incomes policy as no more than a contributory factor strengthening the effect of market forces, in particular by reducing the level of unemployment that is inevitable if inflation is to be avoided. So they take a fairly robust view of the

Government's failure to negotiate a phase three.

They would certainly have preferred an agreement with the TUC but, given the dissatisfaction welling up from the rank-and-file of so many unions, they had not expected one of much substance and they are reasonably sanguine that with the present level of unemployment wage increases over the coming year will not get out of control.

But there are others on the same wing of the party who have regarded an incomes policy as an integral part of the social democracy they were striving to achieve. For them this is more than a tactical reverse. It seems a denial of its proper role for a Labour Government to be relying simply on market forces, plus cash limits in the public sector and a bit of help from the TUC, to control wage increases.

They look back on the past two years as largely a wasted opportunity. For any country to have an incomes policy on what one might term broadly the Scandinavian model—in other words, as a permanent feature of economic organization—not just an occasional expedient—there has to be either a far more centralized trade union movement than Britain has or some means for adjusting relative levels of pay. There has been no advance in either direction during phases one and two so that even the most devout believer in incomes policy must have seen that this one, like its predecessors, was bound to collapse sooner or later than later. They therefore find themselves back at square one.

The political consequences of this will not be all that great if the new approach is generally agreed to be a success: The

apostles of incomes policy will, for the time being at least, have lost the theoretical argument. But their government, led by that wing of the party with which they are associated, will be able to claim the credit; and the task of explaining away success is never the more difficult in politics.

If, on the other hand, wages soar out of control the advocates of incomes policy will seem to have won the theoretical argument at the expense of political catastrophe. A good many people, not least in the Conservative Party, will have to revise their judgment; but it is the present Government that will be held responsible for the chaos.

But there is a third possibility: that the Government will be fairly successful, but not successful enough to restore its political credit. If that happens, a Conservative Government will come in to apply with more inner conviction the policy with which the present Government will be associated. In those circumstances it may be hard for the social democratic wing of the Labour Party to offer a persuasive alternative to Tory economics.

Incomes policy will be seen to have failed not because it was abandoned by the present Government as a deliberate act of will which a future Labour administration could reverse, but because it was impracticable to continue it—the most damning of all judgments in the pragmatic eyes of the British.

That is why the fiasco of phase three is inevitable though it was, may turn out to have increased the attractions of the left's alternative strategy for a future Labour opposition.

Geoffrey Smith

One more cruel twist in the 'punishment' of Dr Voikhanskaya

Bernard Levin

Yesterday, theory; today, practice. Whenever I return to the subject of Dr Marina Voikhanskaya's efforts to get her now 11-year-old son Misha out of the Soviet Union, I feel like a writer of one of those magazine serials that would invariably break off at some particularly exciting moment with a "To be continued" thus necessitating an introductory paragraph before the beginning of the next instalment, labelled "New readers begin here". Very well; new readers begin here, those familiar with the story being permitted to skip the next two paragraphs altogether.

Dr Voikhanskaya is a psychiatrist; she was among that brave band of Soviet doctors who were instrumental both in resisting the abuse of psychiatry for political purposes in their country and in helping to ensure that the details of such abuse were known abroad. (Perhaps the bravest of them all is Dr Sergeyon Gluzman, at present ill in a concentration camp.) Her former husband, Misha's father (they were divorced in 1974), made it clear to her when she left the Soviet Union that he would give the necessary formal agreement to allow Misha to follow her; this was not surprising, as he had shown no interest in the child, had not attempted to obtain custody at the divorce hearing, made no objection to Misha's living exclusively first with his (Misha's) mother and then, when Dr Voikhanskaya emigrated, with her mother, Mrs Friedlander, and has even stated that, were he to be given custody of Misha, he would have the child put in an orphanage.

This last point arose because, when Dr Voikhanskaya began to testify in the West about Soviet abuse of psychiatry, the authorities began to use Misha as an instrument in their campaign to silence her, or to punish her if she would not be silenced. Her ex-husband, who is in a vulnerable position—not only is he a Jew, but the fact that he works in the Ministry of the Interior is considered of significance for security—quickly and understandably attempted to ensure that the truth on this aspect of the matter had been admitted to the public. Dr Voikhanskaya was being punished, by being deprived of her child, for criticising the Soviet regime abroad.

Undaunted, Mrs Friedlander tried to get the father to give the necessary permission. Since he clearly now acts under the direction of the authorities, he evaded her attempts to get in touch with him. Mrs Friedlander (who seems to be as indomitable as her daughter) then went to see the party secretary at the factory where her former son-in-law works, to see whether she could make contact with him there.

She saw this official, whose name is Vladimir Chupatov, in March. He not only refused to help, but was very rude to her, declaring that permission for the child to leave would never be given, that Misha should not be brought up "by an anti-Soviet element" and—significantly, for this is the first time the truth on this aspect of the matter has been admitted—that Dr Voikhanskaya was being punished, by being deprived of her child, for criticising the Soviet regime abroad.

authorities persisted with their decision that a court should award custody of Misha to his father, all hope of getting him out would have vanished; after a huge campaign of protest in the West, however, they changed their minds and decided not to proceed with the action. (But the proceedings could be revived at any time.) Now read on.

In February this year, Dr Voikhanskaya issued to her mother in Leningrad (with whom, remember, Misha still lives for the time being) an invitation to her and the child to visit her in Britain. This invitation was sent via the British Embassy in Moscow, and it was accompanied by a letter from the British Home Office making clear that entry visas would be issued to the child and his grandmother if they could obtain exit visas from their own country. (The Home Office, unfortunately, is by no means always so obliging, as a case the details of which I shall be giving on Friday will make clear.)

Armed with these documents, Mrs Friedlander went to the visa office in Leningrad, where she was given the forms on which to apply for the exit permits. But when she returned, she found that the forms had been completed, she met the same refusal, in the same form, that had been employed before: without agreement from the boy's father, permission would not be granted.

Mrs Friedlander therefore tried to get the father to give the necessary permission. Since he clearly now acts under the direction of the authorities, he evaded her attempts to get in touch with him. Mrs Friedlander (who seems to be as indomitable as her daughter) then went to see the party secretary at the factory where her former son-in-law works, to see whether she could make contact with him there.

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then sent the applications for exit visas to President Podgorny, explaining that the Leningrad visa office refused to process them. She heard nothing direct from the President's office, which is hardly surprising, if only because, unknown to her and everybody else, Podgorny at that time must have already been fighting for his political life; he was sacked from the Politburo and the Presidency towards the end of May. But early in May she was called to the Leningrad visa office, where officials, who had the forms she had sent to Podgorny, demanded that she take them back. She refused; she said she had sent them to the President, not to them.

A few weeks later Mrs Friedlander was called to the visa office again, where she found a striking change in the atmosphere. The official she saw, Inspector Pilina, was as polite and friendly as all previous officials she had dealt with had been rude and threatening, and agreed that her former son-in-law was a rotten father, having taken no interest in his son for two years. It was then suggested to Mrs Friedlander that she should initiate court proceedings to award custody formally to Dr Voikhanskaya (although the child's mother might receive de facto custody at the divorce hearing, an oversight had resulted in her not being formally ratified). Mrs Friedlander, who appears to be no less shrewd than she is courageous, then asked why she should believe in the good intentions of an organization (the visa office) that had behaved so badly and deceitfully in the past; she feared, and said as much, that if she applied to a court on her daughter's behalf, for formal custody, the court might award it instead to the father. Inspector Pilina assured her that nothing of the kind would happen, and then made the following remarkable statement:

"But you don't understand! All this has been decided at a very high level. Colonel Bokov (head of the Leningrad visa office) phoned to the court to find out in what circumstances Misha could legally be allowed to go to England even if he did not have his father's permission. The court explained that this could be done if we follow the procedure I have just described to you."

Inspector Pilina followed this by giving Mrs Friedlander the text of a telegram which, she

explained, Dr Voikhanskaya should send from London. Mrs Friedlander, for precision to the Soviet court, appointing Mrs Friedlander her representative in the court hearing, and that Mrs Friedlander should take the telegram to the procurator; to see the procurator; it now June 8. She was recalled by a deputy of the procurator and found immediately that the friendly tone had disappeared from the business; she was that there was only a 5 per cent chance of custody. I awarded to the child's mother whereupon Mrs Friedlander said that in that case she would proceed with the case, then returned to Inspector Pilina, whose tone had changed abruptly, and arranged for her to see Colonel Bokov's deputy, then Bokov himself, on June 10. He was more unfriendly than any of them, said that Misha would not be allowed out, because "his father says so".

Deadlock: whence, column, for I have vowed report this dreadful story, by stage, until Misha is released from the S. Union to join his mother. These developments focus more attention on the meeting at the end of month in Honolulu of World Psychiatric Association. The general assembly of body will have before it a strongly worded motion from the British Psychiatric Association, denouncing the corruption of psychiatry for political purposes, and Dr Voikhanskaya has been invited to speak. (Anyone wishing to with her passage—she has money of her own—should in touch, not with me, but the Hon. Secretary of the Working Group on the Int. of Dissenters in the Hospitals, 13 Armitage Rd, London, NW11.)

At Honolulu, the strenuous efforts will be by the Soviet delegation to prevent discussion of the abuse of psychiatry in their country is likely that one or more of the greatest doctors will be present, or to less qualify the effect of a debate would be glad to think that presentation of the facts might help to strengthen resolve of psychiatrists from Western to ensure that efforts will not succeed.

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'Only the most serious criminals were executed ...' Inside Cambodia; the other side of the picture

Richard Harris (writing in the series, *Unspeaking Governments* on June 20) has given a picture of democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) which is misleading.

Many of the present leaders of Kampuchea spent years studying the problems of the country and working politically with the people. Several of them presented their conclusions in books, pamphlets and theses.

It is startling, reading these, to find a portrait of the country starkly at variance with that normally associated with peace-time Cambodia in the past; seeming to the visitor calm and prosperous, when in fact the rural areas were ruminating with peasant discontent engendered by heavy indebtedness, landlessness and other socio-economic abuses.

Profound changes were called for, changes which could be brought about only by revolution since the country was underwritten by no further concern for them.

It was, however, of inestimable concern for the Khmer Rouge leaders and for the Kampuchean people. In the liberated areas, despite the war, they succeeded in improving agricultural production that

priorated from the labour of the rural masses.

The peasant rising which culminated in the liberation of Phnom Penh in April, 1975, started in 1963. Its progress was greatly accelerated by the coup of 1970, which resulted in the deposition of the legitimate ruler, Prince Sihanouk, and the installing of an American-backed puppet regime under Lon Nol.

When the Kampuchians claim that "only the most serious criminals" were executed after liberation, it is worth recalling just how serious—indeed monstrous—these crimes were. In return for the chance to amass personal fortunes, they called down upon the heads of their people a calamitous ordeal by bomb, rocket, napalm and bullet.

The countryside—the source of Cambodia's wealth—was devastated, and hundreds of thousands of peasants were killed or maimed.

The criminals simply switched their dependence from appropriated rural surplus to the American taxpayers' involuntary generosity; the country was a wasteland of no further concern for them.

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they were able, not only to feed the people and the People's Liberation Army but also to stockpile enough grain to feed the much swollen population of Phnom Penh, once liberated, for the months needed to clear, repair, plant, tend and eventually harvest the land which would permanently provide for the extra mouths. It was a remarkable achievement.

Two participants in the evacuation of Phnom Penh have now given us eye-witness accounts which differ from that provided by Mr Harris. According to Chou Menig Tarr and Shane Tarr (*News from Kampuchea*, No 1, Sydney, 1977), inauguration of proceedings was "very polite", and the pace of the march was unforced. That it had been long planned—as a long

term as well as a short term necessity—clear from the identity cards printed before hand (see *US/Indochina Report*, July 1976). They said that medical personnel from the liberated areas moved into Phnom Penh to treat the most seriously ill and wounded in improvised hospitals (the existing ones having become overburdened, unhygienic, and serviceless).

We also now have a description of how work was organized in the countryside after liberation by one who took part (see D. P. Chandler, with B. Kiernan and May Hong Lim: *The Early Phases of Liberation in North-western Cambodia—Conversations with Peasants*, Monash University, Melbourne, 1977).

Sophi, although identified with the "old society" was not only spared but was entrusted with the "foreman" job with an 800 work force. According to him, working conditions were "not especially severe", and there was a good deal of self-regulation by the work groups.

At first, in the guerrilla rank and file who had been through the United States bombings and the protracted fighting, there had been "uncontrollable hatred" for members of the "old society", but executions were stopped—among other reasons to make good war losses in the population as

quickly as possible—and, they say, to reach the target of 20,000,000 people by 1980. This is at variance with *The Sunday Telegraph's* claim, August 15, 1976, that they are prepared to go on killing people until "only a few thousand" survive).

Finally, we should be careful not to let the social experiment being conducted in Kampuchea, long since the vice-premier and Foreign Minister, explained in an interview with *Der Spiegel*, May 9, 1977: "We are organizing the country by making agriculture as the base. We will construct industry to the achievements of agriculture, an industry that will have to serve agriculture. This seems to me admirable, and preferable to regarding agriculture as an adjunct to industry."

The Kampuchians will have the last laugh when over the developed countries, like Britain, which grows only enough food to supply the needs of half the population, is thrown back on its own resources by the inevitable swamping of the international economic forces which are already making themselves felt.

Dr Malcolm Caldwell
Lecturer in South East Asian Economic History, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London.

New words and new meanings Caught in the act of corruption

We are privileged, in the loose modern sense of the word, to be present at the moment of birth of a new and obnoxious word: official jargon. Usually such words slip into the common currency surreptitiously and gradually, without anyone noticing until it is too late. But we have caught this one as the very moment when it is about to burst upon a careless world, as usual too busy with lesser matters to pay much attention.

The word is *communality*. According to authoritative reports, for instance in *The Times*, this is the key word in the report from the "think tank" on our overseas representation. Quite what the worthy sages of the Central Policy Review Staff think that they mean by the word can be deduced only from the context, since their spokesman was using it in a sense not known to the lexicographers. Apparently what they mean by it is the principle that there need be no difference between the desk man in a Whitehall ministry formulating commercial policy, for example, and his counterpart in the Diplomatic Service disseminating that policy abroad. There are two things to say about such a principle. The first, favoured by the Foreign Office, is that it is political nonsense. The second, favoured by all who care for the language,

This sloppy, trendy and erroneous addition to official jargon

age, is that it is semantic nonsense. *Communality* just does not mean what they want it to mean. What *communality* means according to the OED is: 1. With ancient authority, a community or commonwealth; Chaucer wrote of governors of commonwealths; a free or self-governing community. 2. The common people, a use favoured especially by Scottish writers, as in the three estates: the clergy, the nobility, and the commonality. 3. A corporation. 4. Possession in common, community (the nearest sense to that wanted by the "think tank" hacks, but not near enough if community what they mean, who could they not use the simpler word?). 5. Commonality: the general or universal body, as in the commonality of Christians. Webster allows it to mean

possession with another or certain attributes: *communio* (which is quite close to sense required. *Frank W. Sullivan* allow *communality* mean only the majority mankind.

The oldest new use evidence originated in the United States. A recent issue of *The Harvard Business Review* (an organ renowned as a well of English undefiled; more as a slop-pretextual and obscure) wrote: "As the individual begin to feel this common of purpose, they become his committed to the organization success. This leads to a teamwork and positive in action, rather than the selfish individualism strive for personal gain." What writer meant was "community of purpose", and so, I dare I did the writers of the "think tank" report.

The report of the Central Policy Review Staff may be of interesting or important things to say about our foreign services. I authors make it difficult, anybody who cares for the language to take their findings seriously by adopting such sloppy trendy and erroneous word as *communality* as the key word.

Philip Hows

An occasional series on words and new meanings.

THE TIMES DIARY / PHS

They come like shadows—still no wiser

With the publication last week of the first ever photograph of Margaret Thatcher and her Shadow Cabinet in their new room at the Commons, I naturally looked closely to see what the next Tory Administration would be like. A dashing Michael Heseltine in the foreground (inevitably) and Norman St John-Stevas (at prayer) in the middle.

But of course, when Mrs Thatcher forms her Government in October, few of the men photographed will be sitting in the same place and holding the brief in Government that he has in Opposition. Never, since 1940 at any rate, have there been fewer obvious "heirs" to ministerial jobs. Never, well not since 1945, has a potential Prime Minister owed less to fewer or played a reshuffled pack closer to the chest.

The Tory Leader, needless to say, has given me no indication of her thinking. Some of her colleagues, by contrast,

think out loud a great deal and suggest names like a political game of Scrabble. Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet will be founded on five offices of State—Treasury, Home Office, Foreign Office, Employment and Lord Chancellor. The present shadows are: Sir Geoffrey Howe, William Whitelaw, John Davies, James Prior and Lord Hailsham (who, officially has no specific duties).

My informant told me that Sir Geoffrey will be given the Lord Chancellorship (which Sir Peter Rawlinson wants) and not the Treasury. Sir Keith Joseph is widely tipped for the Exchequer, as are Edward Heath (sensible), Mr Prior (astounding), and Mr Davies (astounding). Some of his advisers tell me that they hope she herself will take control of economic affairs, at least for the first 18 months or two years.

They argue that only the Prime Minister will be in a powerful enough position to feed the nation the bitter economic pills that will be needed and believe she will appoint Mr Whitelaw as Deputy Prime Minister to carry much of the day-to-day burden of the office. More, including departmental jobs, tomorrow.

The evergreen knight's tale

For a man who once succeeded in persuading the City Corporation that a new London theatre, nestled between barges and City buildings was a practicable proposition, convincing the rest of the world that Robin Hood really existed should be child's play.

Sir Bernard Miles leaves for the Nottingham area today to dig up more evidence. With him goes Victor Ambros, who will illustrate Sir Bernard's book on the Green Man.

"I am going to separate his word myth when you talk to Sir Bernard. It is history, not legend," he will remind you. Nor must you underestimate the intelligence of children. His book will be aimed at eight to 10 year olds.

But does he really believe in



Posies, posies all the way

Normally, I would not waste an inch of diary space on people who throw things at artists on stage. But in the case of Mr Ray Purnell, an Australian who teaches French at a south-east London comprehensive, I raise my hat in respectful salute.

Mr Purnell throws posies. He buys them out of his own money, makes them himself (off to the market early in the morning, then on with the silver-foil dainties and gay ribbons), takes them to the theatre and hurls them over the orchestra pit.

Several times, at Covent Garden and the Coliseum. Every time, I have been astounded at his marksmanship. On Monday night, at the opening of the American Ballet Theatre's season at the Coliseum, he threw 15 (total cost £8), three of which landed within an inch of the toes of the three dancers taking their curtain calls. 20ft away. One trajectory was so finely judged that Fernando Bujones

actually caught the nosegay of variegated asters. Mr Purnell goes to about 200 ballet performances a year. At roughly 25 per cent of them, he throws his missiles. Usually, he knows who his recipients will be but sometimes, overcome by sympathy or impressed by an unexpected burst of balletic virtuosity, he will divert his posies to a new target.

I was glad to see Monday night's capacity audience applaud Mr Purnell and his floral tribute act.

Deflationary Evening News poster on view in London last week: "Up (in bold lettering) Bank card: new limit."

Testing time in the country

When Saccone and Speed, the wine and spirit people, told me originally that they intended to sponsor a Field Championship in October, I thought that at last I would have some good news to report to you. Sadly, for those of you who ride, shoot, fish and pull your own horse box, the championship will not be an open event, but restricted to about 100, invited contestants.

In front of the Duke of Wellington (who is patron of the event and in whose grounds at Stratfield Saye the championship will be held) "an organizer" said yesterday that they

"did not want every Tom, Dick and Harry entering." A pit as some of the best country people I know are Toms, Dicks and Harrys.

The Duke explained that, feeling for the competition stemmed largely from his philosophy that an urban-mind populace, living amid or decreasing countryside, should be made more aware of country matters. Wellington Count Park will, on October 16, be setting for the cross-country (over good, galloping-on, furrying land), for the clay pigeon shooting, for fly casting, as for a new test of driving vehicle plus trailer in tricky locations.

The Field Championship (which, it is hoped, may become an annual event) has been approved by the British Field Sports Society. Even if entry is by invitation, spectating is free (well, on payment of 50p admission, 25p for kids) and the Duke tells me that he hopes the crowds will flock to the Park to watch Saccone and Speed anticipate that as many as 10,000 will turn up. I hope so, too, and I trust that not all the Toms, Dicks and friends will have been put off.

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WHAT WILL RHODESIA VOTE FOR?

Mr Ian Smith's decision to hold an election on August 31, and particularly the reasons he gives for it, darkens already dark prospects. He has stopped the American negotiations for a peaceful transfer of power, and found himself in a position where, due to the fact that he has no hope of the African leaders, he is forced to hold an election. This is a move which, in the eyes of the world, is a move towards the future. The African leaders, who have been in the forefront of the struggle for independence, are now in a position where they are forced to accept the fact that they have no hope of the African leaders, and are forced to accept the fact that they have no hope of the African leaders.

out expectation of a settlement. This is precisely what the Rhodesian Action Party offers, and in the heat of the election Mr Smith is likely to move nearer to their position. Thus the electors have no real choice, though the old slogan "leave it to Smithy" may have some life left in it.

The only circumstances in which Mr Smith could usefully and justifiably consult his white electorate at this point would be if he were prepared to offer Bishop Murewira a deal that he and Mr Sithole could accept—a constitution providing an early election on adult franchise that would bring them to power with authority by next year, as the King's inimitable required. This would be a deal that the Anglo-American effort for it would make a strong claim on London and Washington for help and support for the incoming black government. It would enable them to disavow the Patriotic Front, and it would weaken the Front's credibility, and possibly wreck its uncertain show of unity.

THE CHALLENGE FOR BRITISH STEEL

In every industrial country the steel industry is in an acute crisis. The word as a whole, which was expanding its steel-making capacity in line with the underlying industrial growth of the 1950s and 1960s, suddenly found in the aftermath of the oil price rise and the consequent recession that it had massive over-capacity. As the recession has continued and new capacity comes on stream, the problem has even worsened since 1973.

In effect there is no national industry capable of competing with Japan in this present buyers' market. Its industry is a generation ahead of the rest of the world in its processes, but that base is also added typical Japanese productivity. While the major Japanese producers have reached quota arrangements in other markets, the rest of the Japanese industry stands ready

to sell a whole range of steel products at prices that could produce total chaos.

It is not for nothing, however, that the United States steel industry would probably be in the worst position of all, for it is on of the least modern in the world and is subject to high costs. In comparison, though little comfort can be drawn from it, the British Steel Corporation's losses, measured per ton of steel produced, is lower than that suffered last year by any of the major European producers.

The options open to the Government and management of the BSC are in these circumstances extremely limited. Certainly there are no quick or easy ways of moving from the present situation to one which is stable. The immediate danger, if wage or energy costs were to escalate sharply or if the economic recovery is much longer delayed, is that the losses could

SRI LANKA'S CHANCE TO PASS JUDGMENT

1977 promises to be south Asia's memorable election year, ending more happily than it began. Back in January there were gloomy forecasts that democracy might disappear entirely in the region. Now it seems that representative government will everywhere be strengthened. India's decisive result was certainly reassuring. Pakistan's result in March was contested and has now been admitted after much violence as a messy draw, to be followed by a replay in October. Tomorrow it is Sri Lanka's turn to go to the polls for the first time since 1970, having also endured a state of emergency as in India and Pakistan.

On the surface the obvious parallel for Sri Lanka is India's electoral experience. A woman prime minister, leading the Sri Lanka Freedom Party in succession to her assassinated husband, winning with an emotional appeal to the masses. A state of emergency declared in 1971 in face of a wild revolutionary uprising of discontented youth, ruthlessly crushed down. Changes made in the constitution to remove obstructions. A strong

authoritarian tendency, taking action against the press. A son, Anura Bandaranaike, leading the party's youth movement. A tendency to make appointments as political rewards. The list of objections is added a decline in mass support. At one of her recent rallies Mrs Bandaranaike has been seen to "disrespect parliament" because of her "disrespect democracy", she said. "I would never dream of robbing the people of their supreme right to elect their government". Is a defeat coming to her, too?

Not necessarily, though the Sri Lanka electorate has displayed more governments since independence than any other country in Asia. Besides, the parallels with Mrs Gandhi, either superficial or misleading. This is a very different electorate from India's or Pakistan's. The island has had universal suffrage for well over forty years. Standards of education are among Asia's highest, newspapers are widely read, since 1955 alling has always been over 7 per cent, since 1965 over 20 per cent. Sri Lanka has become a welfare state—over-

Tourists in London

Sir, I expect that my letter on short and long-stay foreigners in this country would arouse controversy from the vested interests. To the Tourist Board I say at once that I and every sensible person welcomes the contribution which tourists make towards our "invisibles" and to the economy.

But I was not talking about the present situation which can be tolerated. I was pointing out that in a few years' time the number of tourists in the central London area is going to create problems, including xenophobia, which need to be thought about now while there is still time to discuss them sensibly. There are, of course, areas in the UK where many more tourists can comfortably be accommodated.

The Hotel and Restaurants Association, by the violence of their reply, suggest to me that they have a guilty conscience. Why is it that most restaurants and hotels in central London are staffed in the main by foreigners? Why is it that there are several thousand Moroccans and Spanish in North Kensington, most of whom have been imported by the London hotel and restaurant permits? Why do these people speak no English and are creating enormous problems for our Social Services department? Some require housing, some are homeless families.

Is it that only foreigners of this kind will work in the hotels and restaurants (a claim which there is an enormous level of unemployment) or is it that the

hotels and restaurants do not pay the wage or provide the working conditions of a standard expected by British people? The industry has not a good record so far as trade unions are concerned. It was the late and great Ernest Bevin who did something about it during the last war, when he was Minister for Labour.

Much more urgent is the problem in the central area of property purchases by foreigners who have no intention of becoming permanent residents. Of course, the foreign executive posted to London for a spell of duty is welcome to buy any property he chooses, but we do not want, in certain parts of my borough and elsewhere, the foreigner who the many other homes and who is buying purely to hedge himself against political and economic uncertainties.

Of course, tourists and foreign residents pay rates and taxes, but I also pay VAT and other duties when I go abroad and in addition I pay a tourist tax. The French have had a "taxe de séjour" for many years in addition to VAT, etc, and their people, incidentally, costs a good deal more than just. Why on earth should we not have the same tax?

Now is the time to bring it in when London is competitively priced and when the demand is there. Moreover, such a tax could help to stagger visits because the rate would be varied according to the month. A tax would not, I suspect, have any effect at all on the total level of tourist visits, which, in any case, I would not like to see increase much above the present level. Next year North Sea oil will see to it that we do not need the extra money.

Yours truly,
MALBY CROFTON,
Leader of the Council,
Town Hall,
Kensington, W8.
July 8.

Conduct of MPs

From Mr J. A. C. Hill
Sir, I find it surprising that a lower standard of conduct may be acceptable for Members of Parliament than was set by and for the members of the old Colonial Administrative Service. Although often in a position to forward their own interests, if they had any, any discovery that they had such interests, disclosed or not, would have led to ignominious dismissal.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. C. HILL,
Tyne Lodge,
Newham,
Basingstoke,
Hampshire.
July 15.

The Grunwick dispute

From Mr David Walder, MP for Clitheroe (Conservative)
Sir, If numbers are not significant in the context of public persuasion, why may I not have 50 Conservative supporters massed outside every polling booth in my constituency at the next election?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WALDER,
House of Commons.
July 15.

Marxism and the totalitarian state: theory and practice

From Lord Gladwyn
Sir, According to Mr Saunders (July 15) we must all now "adjust" to the Marxism in our midst. But how? Of course, if we accept his definition of Marxism—"a great and humane philosophy aimed unexceptionally at an equitable sharing of wealth and power among the population"—adjustment is easy. But what Marx aimed at was not always what he preached, and certainly not what a good number of his followers preached. Besides, an increasing number of intelligent people would deny that his basic philosophy was "great and humane", but would rather agree with Sir Karl Popper that, great thinker though Marx was, his was a dangerous and misguided heresy leading inevitably, if seriously applied, to the totalitarian state and the suppression of all individual liberty. If we believe that, how can we possibly "accept with grace and intelligence" any Marxist "future"? Did Solzhenitsyn accept his future in this graceful way? Does Sakharov?

Certainly, large numbers of British working-class Socialists, or Social Democrats, tend to revere Karl Marx as a prophet who a century ago did much to change accepted values and hence greatly benefit that class. But most can see that all attempts hitherto to put his theories into actual practice have only resulted, after much killing, in governments of corrupt, "apartheid-like" living in luxury and maintaining themselves in power with the help of an army or a secret police.

So, therefore, before proclaiming that we are—or should be—all Marxists now, Mr Saunders would do well to read *The Open Society and its Enemies*!

Yours faithfully,
GLADWYN,
House of Lords.
July 18.

From Mr Peter Richey
Sir, Mr J. W. Saunders's remark that "A good deal more than half of the world's population must now be Marxist" is true only in the sense that in 1940 most of Europe's population was Nazi. The Nazis were a irresistible Marxist tide, merely a sequence of inadequately resisted Red conquests, coups and subjugations, without which the scarcely intelligible Marx would probably be as neglected today as the Russian Revolution. The tricks of Lenin the force-feeder have triumphed, not the recipes of Marx the dietician.

Yours sincerely,
PETER RICHEY,
4 Warwick Avenue, W2.
July 17.

From Professor Julius Gould
Sir, It is interesting to see Mr J. W. Saunders (July 15) back in action. Nearly three years ago (October 3, 1974) he wrote to you in praise of the Wilson regime, then about to face the electorate. Some of the special bits of his rather limited social contract has to be achieved. If anyone can do it, it is the present team. If there is, as you say, a typhoon coming in 1977, who else can even start to weather it?

The Wilson blend of political balance, castigated by so many as "deviousness" ran the Saunders doctrine, "is what we need just now".

It is not surprising that, having seen these virtues in one Labour leader, Mr Saunders' own guess is that his successor's administration may come to be regarded "as one of the best governments we have had". Others may feel that he has got it wrong twice running. And against such a background of

Blasphemy as a crime

From the Reverend J. A. Kidd
Sir, Those of us who have read Professor Kirkup's poem, and who are aware of the fact that the two are in a quandary. How can we answer adequately the half-truths written by so many of those who disagree with the verdict? We cannot, and may not, produce the evidence which would expose those half-truths for what they are. We would not want to disgust people by quoting the blasphemies and fouler statements of the poem; and anyway we would not print them.

For example, we are told that the fourth verse describes "how the century kissed Christ's body". Really? Is that all? That is wilful misrepresentation of the facts: not only is the poem not about the century, but it is not about Christ's body. It is just another attempt to play down the revolting features of the poem.

And as for Mr Robinson's letter (July 15) in which he suggests that the poem and the recent *Punch* cartoon fall equally within the category of blasphemy! Is there really little difference between the blasphemy of the poem and the blasphemy of the cartoon? The difference is the serious assertion that Jesus Christ was a practicing homosexual who had performed sinful acts with at least 15 identifiable people?

How can we say sufficiently clearly and loudly that our views have little to do with anti-homosexuality? Those of us who are Bible-based believers accept the assessment that all sexual acts outside marriage are sinful—whether heterosexual or homosexual. It is the unbridled assertions that Jesus was homosexual, as well as some unimpeachable statements about the source of our salvation, which seem to fit clearly within the terms of the law as it stands.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KIDD,
Christ Church,
Down Street,
Moffat, W.S.
July 18.

From Mr John Brothby, RA

I received this morning from Guy News a request to back the reprint of James Kirkup's poem "The Love that dares to speak its name".

No doubt homosexual love can be a beautiful thing. And love for Jesus also. Kirkup's poem is ugly and profane. The publication and the writing of the "poem" seems to me to be a "punk rocker" act comparable to carrying a church and defecating upon the altar.

error, why should we absorb his claim that, in 1977, the Marxists (his own term) are so numerous and strong inside and outside the Labour Party that we should "accept with grace and intelligence" any Marxist "future"? Numerous Marxists of different kinds in many walks of life: but, as recent events in the NUJ have indicated, there is nothing "inevitable" about a Marxist victory.

The future is much more open and genuinely plural than Mr Saunders so confidently (and so often) seems to imagine. At least it will be unless we are panicked into exaggerating the extent of Marxist support and then blackmailed into accepting a "Marxized future" because it may seem impolite, ungrateful, unselfish or unbrave to fight what we are told is "inevitable".

Yours etc,
JULIUS GOULD,
381 Derby Road,
Northampton,
July 18.

From Mr Peter Mantell
Sir, I doubt whether you have ever published a letter containing more hard-headed and realistic premises and unassailable statements than that of J. W. Saunders.

If Marxism enjoys the widespread willing support that he implies, why is it that the world's population must be Marxist?

1. A good deal more than half of the world's population must be Marxist.

2. In this country there are probably more Marxists of different kinds than there are liberal social democrats.

3. Britain has a long Marxist tradition.

4. Marxism is a great and humane philosophy.

5. The future will be inevitably pluralistic and markedly Marxist.

6. We are fundamentally cooperative, not competitive.

Where is his evidence? Is it not in each case more true to say that:

1. A good deal more than half the world's population is under Marxist government and has little chance of expressing any wish for a change.

2. In this country Marxists and the National Front are politically active but may none the less be a small fraction of the population.

3. Britain is a free democracy and allows expression of any philosophy.

4. Marxism and fascism are in practice two faces of the same oppressive coin.

5. The future may well be markedly Marxist but pluralism for a Marxist will have an exclusively Marxist interpretation.

6. Man, with his mind as his most precious possession, is fundamentally individual.

I do not see that coming to terms with Marx now is any more laudable than were attempts to come to terms with Hitler.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LEFEVER,
The Promis Unit of Primary Care,
1 Malvern Court,
Polham Street, SW7.
July 18.

From Mr R. I. Jackson
Sir, There are many points in Mr Saunders's long letter with which I would take issue, but two of his sentences are sufficient to demonstrate the fundamental falsity of his thesis. "Marxism is a great and humane philosophy, aimed unexceptionally at an equitable sharing of wealth and power among the population," and "Can we not be much more sensible... and accept with grace and intelligence our inevitable Marxist future?"

Marxism is not (pretty shabby) philosophy is one thing; Marxism in practice is quite another. Can Mr Saunders name one country in the world today, whose claimed guiding philosophy is derived from Marx,

where wealth and power—if those words have any real meaning—is not concentrated in the hands of the elite of the ruling communist party?

The inevitable march of socialism is of course complete nonsense. Marx's view that history develops according to scientific laws towards the ultimate and ineluctable state of socialism has been demolished, simply and irrefutably, by Karl Popper, and we must not be beguiled, like Mr Saunders, into thinking that further resistance is useless. The Ascending Man will have reached the nadir of his aspirations if his only future prospect is universal Marxism.

Yours faithfully,
R. I. JACKSON,
Benute,
3 Wardie Dell,
Edinburgh,
July 15.

From Dr A. O. Russell
Sir, I wish the Leader of the Liberal Party would treat us to a clear exposition of his philosophy as the Conservative Leader has done in today's *Times*.

Yours faithfully,
A. O. RUSSELL,
Maripit,
Swan Lane,
Edinburgh, Kent.

From Mr Benedict Beresford
Sir, Christianity teaches us to love our enemies and return good for evil. Is it possible to reconcile this philosophy with prosecuting an editor for the crime of blasphemy?

Yours sincerely,
BENEDICT BERESFORD,
Cleveland,
30 Biddulph Road,
Congleton,
Cheshire.
July 17.

From Miss Gwen Tilly
Sir, H. G. Wells, writing as from the 21st century about the proliferation of pornography in the 20th century in his book *The Shape of Things to Come*, stated: "Literature arose on its head and showed its private parts. It produced a vast amount of obscene pornography, sadistic, incestuous, sexualized religiosity and verbal gibbering in which the rich effectiveness of obscene words was abundantly exploited. It is all available for the reader today who cares to examine it. He will find it neither shocking, disgusting, exciting nor interesting. He will find it trivially pretentious and pitifully silly."

Am I alone in being ahead of my time for feeling those sentiments now?

Yours faithfully,
GWEN TILLY,
3 John's Avenue,
Hendon, NW4.
July 18.

From Mrs Enid Wietrich
Sir, Following Judge Kinn-Hamilton's ruling in the blasphemous libel case that material which constituted a tendency to provoke a breach of the peace was that which was inclined to provoke or arouse angry feelings, am I now allowed to take out an action against you Sir and *The Times* the next time I am annoyed by one of your leaders?

Yours faithfully,
ENID WIETRICH,
EVB Gavton Road, NW3.
July 18.

From Mr Correlli Barnett
Sir, May I as one of the last historians to consult the Blenheim archive while it was still at Blenheim Palace as well as Keeper of the Archives at Churchill College, briefly comment on Professor Holmes's letter of July 16?

It seems to me that he is raising a larger issue than that of the disposal of the Blenheim archive itself—that of the merits of centralizing the nation's archival material as far as possible in London.

It may be thought that on the contrary there are advantages in decentralizing, not only in order to ensure the scholarly independence and vitality of old and new universities outside the capital as places of research, but also in order to relieve the pressure on the British Library's hard-worked cataloguing and conservation departments. Professor Holmes refers to scholars coming from Europe and America to study British archives. He surely cannot believe that the brief journey from London to Cambridge will pose an inconvenience to researchers who have already crossed the Atlantic, especially since at Churchill they find uncrowded search-rooms and the virtually instant issue of documents.

Moreover, scholars of the Marlborough period will in any case need to visit the Churchill Archives Centre if they wish to consult the original documents, which have recently come to us from Chartwell, the originals of the Marlborough-Holmes correspondence, and the papers of General Thomas Erle, Marlborough's distinguished subordinate. Surely it makes sense to unite all the Marlborough papers under one roof here at Churchill.

Yours faithfully,
CORRELLI BARNETT,
Keeper of the Archives,
Churchill College,
Cambridge.
July 18.

From Mr George Malcolm Thomson
Sir, While various factions of the academic establishment squabble about the most suitable home for the Blenheim papers, may I as an independent student but in a year ago I began to collect material for a life of Marlborough. I have now reached a point at which it is essential and urgent—that I should have access to these papers. I have been unable to obtain the necessary permission, although from the present Duke, from the British Library, and from the Minister for the Arts. I have received the most courteous treatment.

However, until I can see the papers, I cannot get on with the job. How long are these papers to remain in limbo?

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE MALCOLM THOMSON,
5 The Mount Square, NW3.
July 17.

From Mr G. D. Ramsay
Sir, Professor Holmes (July 16) is of course correct. Almost all practical historians would prefer to have the papers in a suitable home, but a home more suitable for them than the Department of Manuscripts at the British Library would be the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, where (1) the contemporary state papers lie not recently at hand, (2) over-crowding is likely to be less, (3) the photographic reproduction service is more resourceful and less dilatory, (4) the provision of lists and indexes (on past showings) will be supplied, and (5) there are facilities for the use of dictaphones and typewriters.

Yours faithfully,
G. D. RAMSAY,
15 Charlbury Road,
Oxford.
July 16.

From Mr John Thompson
Sir, Your report (July 11) on the proposed radio broadcasting of Parliament implied that the arrangements are being urged by the Government and the BBC only. May I set the record straight? We in Independent Broadcasting are participating fully in the discussions, and we look forward to providing an independent service on similar lines to the highly effective 1975 experiment.

As well as offering coverage of national interest, our service would be devoted to the concerns of the 18 areas served by the present state of self-financing Independent Local Radio stations and to the work of their local MPs. Sound would be carried on Independent Television News and through them to the TTV companies.

We have provisionally agreed with the BBC on a single operation for gathering and mixing the sound signal, which in the first phase, we would share costs. Beyond that, as during the experiment, the two broadcasting services would be quite separate: our commentary would be independent, the selection and editing of material would be independent, and Independent Broadcasting's financial commitment very considerable.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN THOMPSON,
Director of Radio,
Independent Broadcasting Authority,
70 Brompton Road, SW3.
July 14.

From Mr John Griffiths
Sir, The great Bodleian or Clarkian MS (B) containing 24 of the Dialogues of Plato was brought from the island of Patmos by Dr Edward Daniel Clarke about the beginning of the 19th century. The library of the Monastery of St John, Dr Clarke recounts (Clarke's *Travels in Various Countries*, vol II, Chapter 9, pp 334 sqq) was a chaos. The newest and best bound books occupied the best positions. The monks stated that 20 years previously "they had burnt from two to three thousand manuscripts".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRIFFITHS,
8 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
July 15.

From Mr Packer's cricketers
From Mr George Speaight
Sir, Will you please refrain from dignifying Mr Kerry Packer's commercial adventure with the title of such a traditional and honourable form of entertainment as the Circus.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE SPEAIGHT,
6 Mass Road,
New Gardens,
Richmond, Surrey.

From Mr John Griffiths
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Custody of the Blenheim papers

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CORRELLI BARNETT,
Keeper of the Archives,
Churchill College,
Cambridge.
July 18.

Broadcasting Parliament

From Mr John Thompson
Sir, Your report (July 11) on the proposed radio broadcasting of Parliament implied that the arrangements are being urged by the Government and the BBC only. May I set the record straight? We in Independent Broadcasting are participating fully in the discussions, and we look forward to providing an independent service on similar lines to the highly effective 1975 experiment.

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Yours faithfully,
JOHN THOMPSON,
Director of Radio,
Independent Broadcasting Authority,
70 Brompton Road, SW3.
July 14.

The Leinster inheritance

From Mr Ian Davis
Sir, In his interesting article (July 9) on the disputed Leinster inheritance, Philip Howard says that "the sixth Duke" was committed to Craighouse "as a dangerous lunatic" in 1905 and that from then until his death in 1922 he never left Craighouse. I will remember my father telling me how he and several of his contemporaries would earn pocket-money, as medical students at Edinburgh University, by becoming paid "companions to the Duke" during the vacations.

Whether this involved trips abroad I cannot say for certain, but it did involve my father in several Pindaric-like situations, such as reviewing imaginary troops and reading out menus for bar-maid-fests; and it occurs to me that the Court Circular entry, dated March 11, 1910 (which states that "The Duke of Leinster will shortly arrive in England from abroad") is perhaps best explained as an attempt, either to humour the deluded Duke, if he had not been abroad, or to gratify his sense of dual-importance, if in fact he had been abroad.

Yours faithfully,
IAN DAVIS,
Altham,
Aldham,
Malton.

Weeding out libraries

From Mr John Griffiths
Sir, The great Bodleian or Clarkian MS (B) containing 24 of the Dialogues of Plato was brought from the island of Patmos by Dr Edward Daniel Clarke about the beginning of the 19th century. The library of the Monastery of St John, Dr Clarke recounts (Clarke's *Travels in Various Countries*, vol II, Chapter 9, pp 334 sqq) was a chaos. The newest and best bound books occupied the best positions. The monks stated that 20 years previously "they had burnt from two to three thousand manuscripts".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRIFFITHS,
8 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
July 15.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

July 19: Mr D. C. Carden was received in audience by The Queen this morning and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Khartoum.

Mrs Carden had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mr J. H. Lambert was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Mexico City.

Mrs Lambert was received by The Queen.

Mr B. L. Strachan (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Venezuela, Aruba, Republic) and Mrs Strachan had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mr D. P. M. S. Capa (Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Venezuela) had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mrs Capa had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mr Alexander Callender had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mrs Callender had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mr and Mrs John Maxwell-Scott were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh was received by Sir Arthur Norman at the Memorial Service for Sir Landsborough Thomson which was held at St Columba's Church, Port Street, London, today.

KENSINGTON PALACE

July 19: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present at a service at the Royal Chapel, Kensington Palace, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the consecration of St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London, today.

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Her Royal Highness, the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present at a service at the Royal Chapel, Kensington Palace, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the consecration of St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London, today.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. F. Allcock and Dr J. D. Grayton. The engagement is announced between James, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs F. R. Allcock of Northwood, Middlesex, and Judith, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Joseph Grayton, of Northwood, Middlesex.

Mr P. T. Beale and Miss S. J. A. Walker. The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs V. H. T. Beale, of Parnham, Dorset, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. M. Walker, of Bideford, Devon.

Mr W. H. Crane and Miss E. A. Bell. The engagement is announced between William Holmer Junior, son of Colonel and Mrs W. H. Crane, of Penketh, Cheshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Bell.

Mr P. J. Hodges and Miss E. M. R. Robertson. The engagement is announced between Philip, elder son of Mr and Mrs L. P. Hodges, of Royston, Hertfordshire, and Eleanor, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. M. Robertson, of St Andrews, Fife.

Mr C. D. Newell and Miss S. Cowgill. The engagement is announced between Clive, elder son of Mr C. D. Newell, of Hilden's Bay, Co. Down, and Mrs E. F. Newell, of Belfast, and Susan, elder daughter of Mrs D. Cowgill, of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Major C. L. O. Owen, RGI, and Miss L. E. Purvis. The engagement is announced between Christopher Charles Owen, the Royal Green Jackets, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Owen, of Ramsgate, Kent, and Lucia Elizabeth, daughter of Dr and Mrs Victor Purvis, Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire.

Mr N. Russell and Miss N. de Jager. The marriage will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, between Mr and Mrs Michael Russell, of Ramsgate, Kent, and Miss N. de Jager, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul de Jager, of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mr I. M. Winstanley and Miss A. H. Thiel. The engagement is announced between Ian Malcolm, only son of Mr and Mrs Winstanley, of Farnham, Surrey, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. H. Thiel, of Farnham, Surrey.

Lord Chitnis. The life honours conferred on Mr Pratap Chitambar Chitnis in the Jubilee and Birthday Honours has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Lord Chitnis, of Ryedale in the county of North Yorkshire.

Mr C. S. Gordon Clark and the Hon Mrs C. A. Davidson. The marriage took place in London at the Church of St Michael and St Martin, Vintria, between Mr Gordon Clark and the Hon Mrs C. A. Davidson (nee Ingram).

Mr B. N. Cossett and Miss K. Watkins Birt. The marriage took place in London at the Church of St Michael and St Martin, Vintria, between Mr B. N. Cossett and Miss K. Watkins Birt.

Mr Keith Maurice Walter Ship-ton. Of Folkestone, underwriter, left £328,388 net. He left £12,000 to various charities. Other bequests include (net, before tax paid; tax not disclosed): Room, Mr Harold, of St Anne's, Folkestone, £126,219; Fines, Mr Zachary, of Westwood, £222,124; Jones, Mrs Sarah, of Whitby, £175,153; Robertson, Lady, of St Michael's, £118,184.

25 years ago

From The Times of Saturday, July 19, 1952

It is now 56 years since the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens where no one had ever doubted the fact that the Games started. It is symbolic of the sporting toughness of the Games that, ignoring the tragic break of the 1916 Games, the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens where no one had ever doubted the fact that the Games started. It is symbolic of the sporting toughness of the Games that, ignoring the tragic break of the 1916 Games, the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens where no one had ever doubted the fact that the Games started.

The Games were opened in Helsinki on Saturday, July 19.

Newsday award: Neil Bradshaw, aged 16, with Miss Judith Chalmers, one of a panel of judges who chose him as 'Newsday of the Year' at the Savoy Hotel, London, last night.

Neil, of 18, of Brewin Avenue, March, Cambridgeshire, received a cheque for £350, a family holiday in Gibraltar and a silver cup.

The newspaper he works for, G. Willows, of March, received a cheque for £100.

The runner-up was John 'Lucky', aged 14, of Chapel Lane, Blackboys, Kent, who is employed by

G. & B. Walker, Post Office Stores, Blackboys. He won a cheque for £100. Amanda Smith, of Burrage Place, Plumstead, aged 16, employed by Mr L. Murphy, of Sandy Hill Road, Plumstead, came third. She received £50.

Thirteen boys and three girls who reached the area finals had already received cheques for £50 and were presented with plaques. It was the fifth year that the Newspaper Publishers Association has promoted the 'Communicator' Newsday/Newsday of the Year' competition.

Smith, Ch. Ch. George, Univ. Wash.ington, D.C., and Mrs. Anne, Univ. of California, Los Angeles, Calif., U.S.A.

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Smith, Ch. Ch. George, Univ. Wash.ington, D.C., and Mrs. Anne, Univ. of California, Los Angeles, Calif., U.S.A.



Lord Carver, centre, formerly Sir Michael Carver, before his introduction in the House of Lords yesterday. His sponsors were Lord Harding of Petherton, left, and Lord Elworthy.

Bowl by Arakawa fetches £1,200

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

For the first time, Christie's

yesterday had on offer a group

of works by Arakawa Toyozo,

an 18th-century Japanese potter

who is now being rediscovered.

His work is now being rediscovered.

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Substitute tobacco runs out of 'puff'

26

We can be concerned about the balances and work on them, but not panic, he says

Blumenthal warning on record US deficit

From Frank Vogel
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, July 19

America continues to build up record balance of trade and current account deficits, and today Mr Blumenthal, the Secretary of the Treasury, gave the warning: "We can be concerned about the balances and work on them, but not panic."

He told the Senate Budget Committee that the trade balance was unlikely to improve in 1978, although some improvement was likely in 1979 as a result of the Administration's energy policies. He forecast a trade deficit this year of some \$25,000m (about £14,529m).

Mr Blumenthal predicted that the current account deficit would total about \$12,000m this year, that some improvement was likely in 1978, and that the country should come closer to balance over the next two to three years.

He said he was not surprised by the weakness of the dollar in the foreign exchange markets in view of America's trade and current account positions,



Left to right: Mr Blumenthal, Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr Charles Schultz, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.



and he conceded "clearly we cannot stand that kind of a trade deficit" for an extended period.

American officials believe that the Administration's energy policies, plus policies adopted by both Japan and West Germany to reduce their payments surpluses, will play a major role in the next two years in moving American external accounts towards a more balanced position.

Mr Blumenthal said he expected the real gross national product growth rate of the economy to slow from an annual rate of about 7 per cent in the first half of this year to about 5 per cent in the second half, and to maintain a level, at least as high in the year ahead.

He said: "We do not anticipate any pronounced or extended sluggishness, and see no signs of recession."

Mr Blumenthal predicted that consumer price increases would slow to about 6 per cent in 1978 from roughly 6.5 to 7 per cent this year, while the unemployment rate would move from today's level of 7.1 per cent to about 6 per cent by the end of next year.

He said that the Federal Reserve Board's current monetary targets appeared consistent with the aim of maintaining significant real economic expansion and reducing inflation.

Mr Charles Schultz, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, told the House Budget Committee today that real gnp was likely to rise by about 5 per cent from the fourth quarter of this year to the fourth quarter of 1978.

He made similar comments on the outlook to Mr Blumenthal, and said that the slowdown in economic growth in coming months should by no means be seen as a cause for alarm.

The Administration is now taking the view that the rate of growth seen so far this year is probably too high to ensure a further reduction in inflation, and thus a slower rate, as is now being predicted for the

next 13 months, is much more desirable for ensuring general economic stability.

Mr Schultz said that on the basis of current forecasts "our economic goals for 1978 appear to be achievable."

The Administration will release its first preliminary report on second quarter gnp on Thursday which, according to the statements by Mr Schultz and Mr Blumenthal, is likely to show an annual rate of increase of about 6.9 per cent.

The Administration believes the recovery from recession is now becoming broader and more solid, and Mr Blumenthal pointed out today that there was now a good chance of a substantial rate of real growth in business fixed investment.

The Budget Committees of both the Senate and the House of Representatives are now starting a series of hearings on the economy today that will look in preparation for action by both chambers of the Congress by September 15 on a final budget resolution for the 1978 fiscal year which starts on October 1.

Inflation accounting: the simplest solution of all?

From Dr D. Rudd
Sir, If Mr Geoffrey Wilson (July 14) and the Merpheth group want a simple interim solution to the inflation accounting problem, why do they not adopt the simplest solution of all? It is surely well known that the greater part of the problem could have been solved years ago, by a single correction to the historical profit and loss account which would take less than 10 minutes to calculate.

The correction is simply to multiply the ordinary stockholders opening equity interest by the proportionate change in the retail price index during the year, and subtract the product from the historical profit. That this correction would be easy to understand and to calculate and would be a good approximation to the correction ultimately required can scarcely be denied.

The long debate has been about how to do the job more accurately. Thus the best has been the enemy of the good. Now we are offered a half-baked compromise (increased depreciation plus LIFO) which remains at least one of the main blocks on which current cost accounting is assembled, namely that it discriminates inequitably against the banks and in favour of highly geared companies. How many times are we going to go round this sterile circle?

Yours etc
DAVID RUDD,
20 Wellesford Close,
Barnet,
Herts.,
July 19.

From Mr J. Denza
Sir, It is probably because reporters covering the recent debate on current cost accounting did not wait until the votes

were counted that the most significant statement made at the meeting has, so far as I can see, been reported nowhere. Both the president and Mr Cornie, who spoke for the council in the debate, stated at the end without qualification that they accepted on behalf of the council the point frequently made from the floor during the debate that CCA is not a system for accounting for inflation.

This will doubtless astonish all but specialists, but it is true. It is a system of accounting for changes in the price of tangible assets and for nothing else. Its employment would, for instance, be useful in a business dealing in a volatile commodity at a time when the currency in general was stable. Inflation as such—the decline in the general value of money—would be ignored.

It was not devised or put out by the council, who, on the contrary, produced an admirable and far simpler genuine system of accounting for inflation several years ago. At that point the government stepped in and appointed the committee whose disastrous recommendations have caused so much trouble. The only mistake made by the council was the decent one of trying to make the best of a bad job rather than telling the government that they would have nothing of it.

If Barber had not intervened there would have been a workable system of inflation accounting in operation for two years already. Yours truly,
J. DENZA,
9th Floor,
Lee House, London Wall,
London EC2Y 5AX.

Indexing wages and salaries

From Mr E. J. Clynne
Sir, I am writing in support of Mr R. G. Layard's proposal (July 19) in favour of indexing of wages as a stabilizing element in pay negotiations.

Full indexation guarantees real living standards which free collective bargaining does not. Furthermore, it reduces and may eventually help to eliminate expectations of persistent inflation, thereby slowing down the velocity of circulation which is an important generator of inflation.

I would suggest, however, that indexation covers salaries as well as wages. By extending the protection of present living standards to all classes, social tension and bitterness would be reduced. It would also at least retain present real earnings differentials instead of further depressing them. This would help to restore incentives and prevent job hopping and spurious promotions as the only way to improve an

employee's financial position.

On a political level, indexation would end the arbitrary redistribution of income between different sections of the working population, which is properly a subject for legislation following parliamentary sanction. Unlike Mr Layard, I would recommend that indexation is not made contingent on settlements of less than 10 per cent, but that it is established in lieu of pay negotiations except for a national levy equivalent to the growth in gross national product on a retrospective 12 months moving average basis. In addition to this "national productivity deal", individual companies should remain free to negotiate average increases based on proven increases in productivity.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. CLYNNE,
118 Coleherne Court,
Old Brompton Road,
London SW5.

Pay and sterling depreciation

From Mr E. B. Chalmers
Sir, In his ordered rhetorical analysis of exchange rate appreciation and depreciation (The Times, July 13), Mr Michael Surrey was surely shunning his eyes to current realities. He wrote: "The evidence for the existence of a close link between wages and prices is not very strong." Yet do we not every day now hear trade union leaders make very pointed reference to our 17 per cent rate of inflation when proposing wage claims of 20 per cent and above?

The breakdown of incomes policy and the prospect of a frightening wage explosion can in large part be attributed to less than a decade of sterling depreciation in pursuit of export advantage. This generated a rate of inflation far above what trade union leaders were led to expect when they agreed to phase two.

For what is now happening the Government has therefore to blame itself as well as those economists who share Mr Surrey's views.

Yours faithfully,
E. B. CHALMERS,
Economic Advisor,
E. B. Savory, Milin & Co.,
20 Moorgate,
London EC2R 6AQ,
July 14.

expected that, by now most employers would have made the choice between contracting in or contracting out. Delays in documentation is thus the whole story.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE D. GWILT,
Assistant General Manager,
The Standard Life Assurance Company,
Pensions Department,
23 Annandale Street,
Edinburgh.

Preparing for the state pension scheme

From Mr George D. Gwilt
Sir, The fact that only 66 elections to contract out of the new state pension scheme have so far been received by the Occupational Pensions Board may indeed be due to the length of time needed to prepare the necessary details as stated in your article "Time is running out on pensions" (July 9).

At Standard Life we have already obtained approval from

the OPB for standard drafts of rules and other legal documents required for schemes which are to be contracted out, so it is not surprising that out of the five contracting-out certificates presented by Lord Allen on July 7 two were for schemes insured with us, and as stated in your article "Time is running out on pensions" (July 9).

Nevertheless, I would have

Support for British exports abroad

From Mr J. H. Kendall
Sir, I have ceased to be any more why Great Britain in the state that she is.

I run a company here Berlin importing British goods. At the beginning of month out of my own pocket organized a two-day show celebrating the Queen's jubilee 1977 Export Year. I wrote Her Majesty's Government for a few posters, flags, a picture of our Queen to the Berliners; needless to say we received nothing, not even acknowledgment of our letter. We exhibited many products from British manufacturers, Berlin press attended and public showed great interest. Many thousands came to see and everyone tells me this was a great success. The British residents here from walks of life, and they fully stayed on their feet for hours a day without a word of complaint. Oh yes, I wrote mention, it was all unpaid, they were proud to British and show people that the flag hasn't set just. We also received two letters from Buckingham Palace, Prince Charles and the Queen of Edinburgh expressed interest in our little exhibition towards putting the flag back in Britain.

Since the exhibition we have been approached by a large number here in Berlin who want to see a British week exhibition. I have started drafting out plans bring over tradesmen from cottage industries, and products from manufacturers proud to show their quality British goods to an international audience.

I wrote to a government department that shall be name explaining my proposals, a this morning I received a letter from a lady secretary, a senior information officer asking that if I sent 75p of 40p postage the departure would be happy to send me guide and publication of me craft workshops in the United Kingdom. Sir, what can I say? We have been offered the wide ground floor of one of the largest hotels here, we hope hold fashion shows daily, our British stars and products entertain and even British chefs to cook typical English dishes. We want to exhibit at least 2 British companies. This will be during the Grille Woche (Grill Week) one of the largest international shows held in Berlin. There will be over a million visitors here. So to go to Sir, but if I send 75p plus 40p etc.

I am British and proud of it. I believe in my homeland and my Royal Family. I will do anything to help but isn't it about time the proverbial finger was taken out of the Drakes an Raleighs came out of hiding? I am sick to death listening people telling me that the country is finished. I don't believe for one minute that the flag ready to set and there are many British here who agree with us. I would be pleased if you decided to publish any part of this letter and am proud to place by him beneath it.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. KENDALL,
Kurfürstendamm 186,
1000 Berlin 15,
July 7.
P.S. Is it true that this is 1977 Export Year?

Pea plant strike puts 1,200 jobs in jeopardy

By Our Commercial Editor

Batchelors Foods, which claims to be Britain's largest canner of processed and "mushy" peas, stands to lose half its £2.5m pea harvest by this weekend unless a strike at its two northern factories can be settled.

There is still no real sign of a break in the stalemate between the company and the 1,200 workers who walked out over a pay claim. The company said yesterday that the strike, now in its second week at the height of the pea harvesting, could place the jobs of all the strikers in jeopardy.

In the few weeks of the pea harvest about 550 workers at Worktop, in north Nottinghamshire, dry the peas. Another 650 workers at the Sheffield canning factory process the dried peas throughout the rest of the year.

Batchelors said yesterday that if the whole of the pea harvest was lost the effects would be felt on the retail

shelves in about three to four months. Growers providing around a sixth of Batchelors' total tonnage of peas have already been released from their contracts to supply for the rest of the season. Batchelors' planned tonnage this year was 15,000.

By this weekend its actual losses would be well in excess of the £1.25m which represents only the harvest price of the peas which would have been going in for drying. The Sheffield and Worktop workers, a substantial proportion of them women, walked out because the company rejected a claim from the Transport and General Workers' Union for a restoration of differentials, lost during the phase two pay policy period. The company has said it is prepared to negotiate on three other parts of the pay claim.

Yesterday a group of Worktop workers were reported to have asked for a further meeting to allow a fresh vote on whether the strike should continue.

Jubilee lifts silver and gold assays

By Patricia Tisdall

Special Silver Jubilee commemorative items came near to doubling the weight of silver passing through Britain's four Assay Offices during April, May and June.

The 50,706 kilograms of silver goods hallmarked during these three months was 91.5 per cent more than during the same quarter last year. The number of silver items from teaspoons to rose bowls and pendants increased by 69 per cent to a total of over 2.7 million articles.

While silver showed the most marked increase, the volume of gold hallmarked in the quarter also rose substantially. The weight of gold tested, according to the results issued by the Joint Committee of the Assay Offices of Great Britain yesterday, climbed by 56.3 per cent.

The number of gold articles rose even more sharply by 73.4 per cent to a total of 4.3 million. Gold imports more than doubled

Engineering employers attack new Price Code

By Derek Harris

Use of the Price Commission to police the 12-month pay rule could cause a "significant" transfer of skilled labour from companies with late settlement dates to those which choose to settle earlier at high rates, the Engineering Employers' Federation said in a submission yesterday to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.

The federation was commenting on the consultative document on the Price Code which the Government plans to introduce on August 1 as part of its new price control machinery. The EEF has already said it is against the new investigatory powers on companies which the Government will get under the Price Commission Bill now going through Parliament.

The Government should consider its prices policy now it had failed to secure agreement with the trades unions on pay, the EEF went on. It should influence price levels by means of its own monetary and exchange rate policies rather

than through the proposed controls.

The EEF totally rejected the principle of price control at a time when no formal constraint on pay increases exists. "The Government has chosen to penalize employers in order to enforce its policies," it said.

"The result of severe upward pressure on wages at a time of price control can only be reduced profitability, still at dangerously low levels in real terms, and increased redundancy. Without price control there should be no price control."

In the consultative document's proposals for a one-year Price Code, the EEF particularly attacks the concept of margin controls. These are described as "discouraging efficiency or loss-making companies."

Maintaining a 121 per cent return on capital as a reference level for some companies was insufficient, at a time of 17 per cent inflation, to maintain the value of a company's capital base.



Mr R. Scholey (left), chief executive of the British Steel Corporation, with Sir Charles Villiers yesterday.

Wages warning after big BSC loss

Continued from page 1.
which have been kept open at the Government's request for social reasons.

This will undoubtedly lead to fears among trades unions that BSC plans to accelerate the closure of many of the plants relieved after a Government review two years ago.

The increase in the corporation's borrowing limit to £4,000m is expected to come under attack from the Opposition when the proposal is debated in Parliament at the end of this week. BSC now expects to reach the ceiling in the spring of 1979.

It could mean added problems for BSC at a time when it plans to open negotiations shortly with the unions over productivity and job restructuring to reduce its overall manning levels.

It was emphasized yesterday that BSC is not abandoning its long-term development strategy, now extended from 10 to 15 years, under which its steel capacity will be lifted to 30 million tonnes.

The cutback in spending will largely be achieved by delaying the start of a huge expansion planned for Port Talbot at a cost of £835m and postponement of a new plate mill to be built in the North-east for which the corporation will shortly seek Government approval.

Referring to the Government's insistence that the BSC remained within the cash limit set for this year, Sir Charles said that this was inevitable and essential if the corporation was to put its house in order.

The allocation of the cash, he said, would call for managerial judgment and trade union co-operation at a high order.

Steelmakers' toll, page 15

NOTICE OF ISSUE

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the undermentioned Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

ABRIDGED PARTICULARS

The Colne Valley Water Company

(Incorporated in England on 16th June, 1973 by The Colne Valley Water Act, 1973.)

OFFER FOR SALE BY TENDER OF

£4,000,000

8 per cent. Redeemable Preference Stock, 1984

(which will mature for redemption at par on 31st July, 1984)

Minimum Price of Issue—£98 per £100 Stock

yielding at this price, together with the associated tax credit at the proposed rate, £12.36 per cent.

This Stock is an investment authorised by Section 1 of the Trustee Investments Act 1961 and by paragraph 10 (as amended in its application to the Company) of Part II of the First Schedule thereto. Under that paragraph, the required rate of dividend on the Ordinary Capital of the Company was 4 per cent. but, by the Trustee Investments (Water Companies) Order, 1973, such rate was reduced to 2.5 per cent. in relation to dividends paid during any year after 1972.

The preferential dividends on this Stock, which will rank *pari passu* for dividends with the existing Preference Stocks, will be at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. The associated tax credit, at the proposed rate of advance corporation tax (34/66ths of the distribution), is equal to a rate of 4 4/33rds per cent. per annum.

Tenders for the Stock must be made on the Form of Tender supplied with the Prospectus and must be accompanied by a deposit of £10 per £100 nominal amount of Stock applied for and sent in a sealed envelope to DeLoitte & Co., New Issues Department, P.O. Box 207, 125 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX marked "Tender for Colne Valley Water Stock", so as to be received not later than 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 26th July, 1977. The balance of the purchase money is to be paid on or before Monday, 26th September, 1977.

STATUTORY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The Company was incorporated by The Colne Valley Water Act, 1973 and under this and subsequent Acts and Orders obtained powers for supplying water in an area of about 149 square miles in Greater London and Hertfordshire, including parts of the London Boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Harrow, and Hillingdon the City and District of St. Albans, the Borough of Watford, part of the Borough of Hertsmere and part of the District of Three Rivers. In accordance with the provisions of the Water Act, 1973, the Company continues to supply water within that area under an arrangement with the Thames Water Authority. The total population supplied is approximately 750,000.

The present issue is being made to provide funds for the redemption at par of £4,000,000 6.3 per cent. (formerly 9 per cent.) Redeemable Preference Stock 1977 on 30th September, 1977.

Copies of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone Tenders will be considered, and Forms of Tender may be obtained from:—

Seymour, Pierce & Co.,
10 Old Jewry, London, EC2R 8EA.

National Westminster Bank Ltd.,
113 High Street, Watford, Herts., WD1 2DG.

or from the Principal Office of the Company, Blackwell House, Aldenham Road, Watford, Herts., WD2 2EY.

International banking activity slows

Basle, Switzerland, July 19.—In marked contrast to the rapid growth in 1976, international banking activity slowed sharply in the first quarter of 1977, with reporting banks' external assets declining \$1,000m to \$547,000m, the Bank for International Settlements said today.

It said that the change was particularly striking if compared with the final quarter of 1976, when the banks' total external claims had risen by \$47,000m.

The BIS was measuring the total external assets of banks in the Group of Ten countries, including Switzerland, as well as of branches of United States banks in main Caribbean and Far Eastern offshore centres.

BIS, which is based at Basel, cautioned, however, against judging the significance of the figures without the following qualifications:

First, it said that the contrast between the two quarters was in large measure seasonal, resulting from the unwinding of the banks' end-year operations.

Second, it said that publicized new Eurocurrency credit facilities, which tend to foreshadow changes in actual bank claims, tell a somewhat different story. While the \$8,100m total of such credit announcements was about \$2,000m less than in the last 1976 quarter, it still was 12 per cent above the quarterly average for 1976.—AP-Dow Jones.

Bravo resumes production

Oil production has resumed from the Bravo platform on Phillips' North Sea Ekofisk field, where there was a blow-out in April.

Phillips said the valves were turned on again on Monday after work on the B-14 oilwell. That was the well men were working on when the blow-out occurred.

Production from Bravo platform, which travels by pipeline to a terminal on Teesside, is expected to return to the pre-blow-out level of about 300,000 barrels (40,000 tons) a day.

Warren Plantation Holdings Limited

Points from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Humphrey Salmon, at the Annual General Meeting of Warren Plantation Holdings Limited.

- * Pre-tax profits for 1976 increased by 144.5%. The fifth successive annual increase.
- * In the current year the Group is in a strong position to improve further on last year's results.
- * Dividend of 20p gross per share forecast for current year.
- * Development Policy progressing satisfactorily. New diversification into Palm Oil in Papua New Guinea.

Summary of group results (£'000s)

	1976	1975	1974
Turnover	15,913	9,655	7,125
Profit before Taxation	4,668	1,909	1,311
Earnings per share	40.98p	25.92p	16.56p
Dividend per share (Gross)	14.00p	10.38p	9.00p
Return on Capital Employed	34.77%	26.19%	19.24%

New Address of Registered Office is:

Sir John Lyon House, 5, High Street, Upper Thames Street, London, EC4V 3HL.

هذه ايامنا الصعبة

EDITOR

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Government lifeboat or investment opportunity?

Support for British exports... From Mr J. B. B. Sir, I have been... I run a... in the state... offer lifeboat enough to governments... that governments are also likely to... an additional lifeboat in the steady... of the personal sector financial... This has already risen from £1,300m in 1977 to £7,600m last year—being mainly... in the still faster rise in the public... deficit—and it is likely to continue to... given the importance of the rising non-... contributions and life assurance pre-... and a continuing trend for the... to maintain the real value of cash... With the corporate sector likely to be... for balance and the overseas sector's... unlikely to grow that large, Phillips... savings flows that the most probable... a continuing public sector deficit... Any attempt to cut the public sector... a level consistent with the... of a substantial sector surplus required to finance... investment could only... deflationary implications... The logic of all this, at least on the... made, speaks for itself. But it... well be asked whether such a situation... a healthy economy. Arguably, of... would be far better to encourage the... to run a substantial deficit, in... for instance, in Japan... This does not mean that the corporate... at an operating loss, simply... that would increase capital investment to... additional external finance... personal savings—would be re-... to supplement internally generated... One is back, then, to the old question of... to encourage industry to invest. As... the main thrust of the evidence to the... Committee has suggested, the cre-... of an environment in which there can... returns on investment must be... the main priority.

Malawians are now being allowed back into the mines by their government, a move which has been quietly welcomed by the industry, while the number of miners from Mozambique has been declining rapidly. Since the 1975 peak of 115,309, the number had fallen to 84,733 by April of last year, and by April this year had more than halved to 38,244. This represents a mere 8 per cent of the total black labour force.

The decline of the Mozambique labour force has had hidden benefits for the gold mining companies, a benefit which will become more pronounced when the IMF ratifies its new articles and South Africa revalues its gold holdings at market related prices, possibly in the final quarter of this year.

Under the Mozambique Convention part of the wages are remitted directly to the Mozambique government in the form of gold at the official rate of \$42 per ounce of gold.



Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of Anglo American Corporation, which announces its gold mines' quarterly figures on Friday.

compared with last night's London closing price of \$145.35 an ounce. At the beginning of this year the arrangement was costing the industry some \$120m.

However, once South African revalues at something approximating to the free market price, Mozambique will get its gold at the new rate, which will save the South African gold industry in the region of \$50m-\$100m.

The revaluation of the gold reserves will bring another benefit—albeit a fairly marginal one—to all the mines in the industry. Currently the mines receive only the official rate when their output is delivered to the Rand Refinery and collect the difference between that and the free market price some two to four weeks later. Once the reserves have been revalued, the mines will get the new rate immediately.

Gold bullion has been showing unseasonal strength recently with good industrial demand and some fears of the weakening dollar. Mining shares have been receiving renewed attention from Americans who have taken heart from the way De Beers has been performing.

The Americans, however, tend to be conservative and go for the heavyweights stocks. Randfontein is still a major favourite although President Brand and Hartebeestfontein have a strong following.

The Italians gain a third world bridgehead

The Italian League of Cooperatives has set up a joint trading company with the Mozambique Government which could set a pattern for western group seeking openings in left-wing countries of the third world, particularly in Africa.

Signor Vincenzo Ausanelli, head of the league's foreign department, recently had a delegation to Maputo, where he also signed agreements on cooperation in public works, housing and agriculture.

The trading company, with offices in Milan and Maputo, is 50 per cent owned by the Mozambique authorities and 49 per cent by the league. It is understood that it will become virtually the sole channel for dealings with companies in western Europe, though, according to Signor Ausanelli, some limited purchases of agricultural equipment from Italy, Perkins and engines from Fiat have already been made independently by the Mozambiqueans.

The company plans to undertake market studies of Italy and other Western countries covering both exports and imports.

First, usually quick to establish its own presence in what it sees as interesting markets, has decided to go on under the cooperative umbrella. Signor Ausanelli says that the Fiat

group has promised to put up \$300m for technical assistance through the trading company, particularly in the mechanization of agriculture.

The Mozambiqueans have bought about \$2m worth of tractors from Fiat and have undertaken to spend about twice as much in a year for two years on agricultural machinery, lorries and earth-moving equipment.

In public works and building the cooperatives intend to work closely with Italcrist, part of the Italian state-owned IRI group, which sent a representative with the delegation to Maputo.

One ambitious and politically important project is to provide the backbone of an asphalted road running from north to south—the main communications at present go west to east.

The agreement on agricultural cooperation stems on a broader scale a project by the league in Maputo province financed by the Italian Government.

Mozambique is rich in certain natural resources. With help from the league studies are being undertaken of the feasibility of exploiting timber and marble—a field in which the Italians have centuries of experience. The league is ready to work with private enterprise in such sectors.

The impression of Italian travellers returning from southern Africa is that Franco, the left-wing ruling group, intends to maintain close direct dependence on aid from the western block, thus doing little to help the Mozambiqueans in oil refining, from the Cubans in sugar cane, from the Soviet Union in agriculture and from the Chinese in rice cultivation. But it is not on a big scale.

For Frelimo, the advantages of channeling trade and aid contacts with the West via a left-wing cooperative movement are obvious: it provides a buffer against the fear of exploitation and domination by rapacious multinationals. For British companies not conditioned by years of habit to seeking security in South Africa and Rhodesia, there could be benefits in trying to follow the footsteps of Fiat under the cooperative umbrella.

Weak demand coupled with severe overcapacity, as Sir Charles noted yesterday, have depressed prices which, in normal conditions might have been expected to be showing signs of hardening. This they are patently not doing at present.

The crisis in the European industry has led to remedial measures—including minimum prices for a number of steel products—being proposed by the EEC Commission at the behest of Industry Commissioner Viscount Deakin.

Today and tomorrow civil servants from OECD member countries will be beginning preliminary talks on the crisis in Paris and the possibility of negotiating some international steel pact will be discussed.

But this is essentially for the long term. The crisis is immediate and for the British Steel Corporation the global problems are being heightened by a number of factors peculiar to Britain.

As a result of the review of the plant closure programme undertaken by Lord Beswick when Mr Wedgwood Benn was Secretary of State for Industry, a number of high-cost plants that the BSC wanted to shut

Last week Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, sat down with the Venezuelan ambassador and signed a deal under which the corporation will provide technical consultancy services for a \$600m project on the shores of Lake Maracaibo.

Yesterday, in more sombre mood, Sir Charles revealed that the corporation had followed up its loss of £235m in 1975-76 with a £92m after-tax loss last year, and he gave advance warning that a loss the size of that in 1975-76 (and possibly even greater) was in prospect for the present financial year.

It is ironic that the state steel undertaking should enjoy such success in selling its knowledge overseas yet turn in losses of this order, losses influenced to a great extent by the deep recession in the steel industry throughout the world and with little light yet at the end of the tunnel.

The attraction of BSC's expertise to overseas governments is due in no more small way to the wide spread of its plants, ranging from some of the most outmoded to some of the most advanced in the world, and to the fact that it is involved in almost continuous commissioning of new plants—this year it will spend \$500m on new investments.

But the problems are enormous and indeed Sir Charles, nor his board colleagues, have attempted to minimise the gravity of the situation which now confronts the corporation and its labour force. The Corporation is only too aware of the scale of the difficulties, but has made it clear that there can be no increase in the corporation's cash limit for the present year of 1976-77.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Industry Minister, will reveal that the borrowing limit is being increased—well ahead of the original timetable of £400m.

The BSC's problems are inextricably linked to the steel market—although there are other domestic factors which have an important bearing on its financial crisis. Companies in Britain, the United States and Japan are faced with the same problems to a greater or lesser degree.

It is now clear that the latest cycle has greatly elongated. Since the end of World War Two growth in the steel industry has averaged 10 per cent a year, but in the latest cycle the growth rate has faltered and plunged steel-makers into severe losses, particularly where they are burdened by outmoded and high-cost plant.

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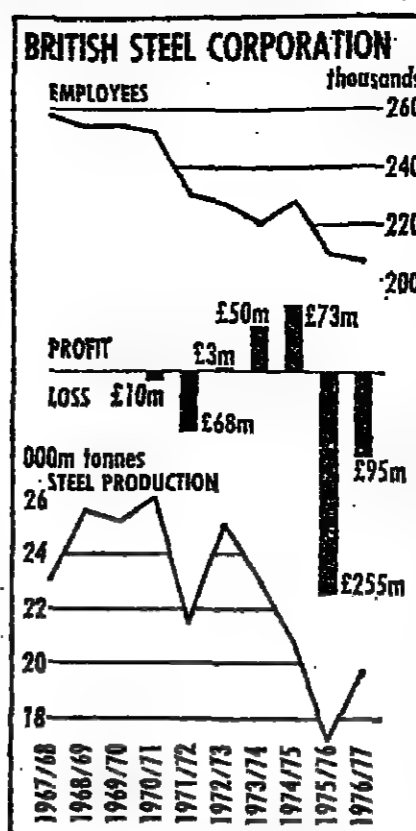
As a result of the review of the plant closure programme undertaken by Lord Beswick when Mr Wedgwood Benn was Secretary of State for Industry, a number of high-cost plants that the BSC wanted to shut

Peter Hill

Why the steel makers must still toil

'We believe that BSC has an extraordinary and unique opportunity to become, as in the past, a market leader in many of its products'

Sir Charles Villiers chairman of the British Steel Corporation



Profit and loss figures are after tax and extraordinary items. No profit and loss figures are available for the period before 1970-71 because at the time of formation at least three different accounting procedures were being followed. Source: BSC

down as part of its 10-year (now stretched to 15-year) development plan. However, as Sir Charles acknowledged yesterday, apart from the financial projections and estimates the corporation is still heavily overmanned. Yet its ability to reduce its labour force and boost productivity and thus become more efficient has been hampered by the constraints of pay policy, which have prevented it from implementing incentive and job restructuring schemes.

Sir Charles explained yesterday that moves are afoot to begin negotiations shortly with trade union leaders over the scope for productivity deals in the corporation's plants. These will be long and involved and could be difficult to resolve.

But there are more serious prospects. The commissioning of new plants at Teesside, Redcar, Llanwern and Ravenscroft will shortly lift capacity to 26 million tonnes a year (and at the end of the five-year development programme capacity will be about 30 million tonnes), although present sales opportunities are estimated at only 20 million tonnes a year, with

a break-even point of 24 million tonnes a year. However, as Sir Charles acknowledged yesterday, apart from the financial projections and estimates the corporation is still heavily overmanned. Yet its ability to reduce its labour force and boost productivity and thus become more efficient has been hampered by the constraints of pay policy, which have prevented it from implementing incentive and job restructuring schemes.

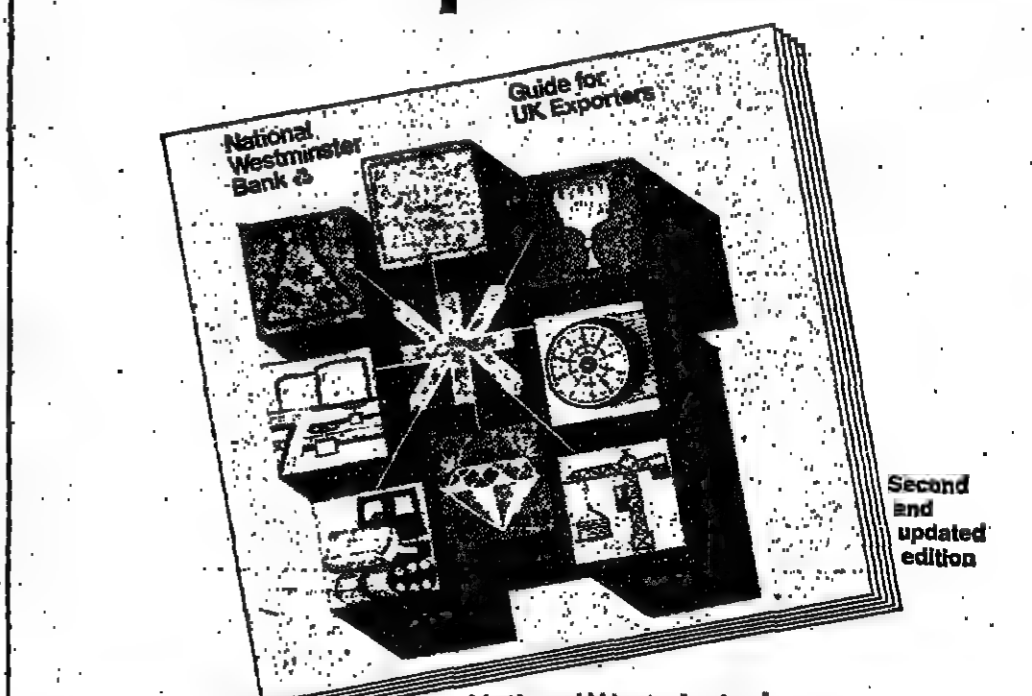
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As part of the plan of action conceived by the board, individual divisions are at present carrying out a review of plant loading and directing business to the lowest cost plants. Such measures clearly make the older higher-cost plants more vulnerable and it is a highly emotive and sensitive area so far as the trade

As he noted yesterday: "We can see no reason why BSC should not earn enough profit in good times to offset the losses in bad years. Indeed, we believe that BSC has an extraordinary and unique opportunity to become, as in the past, a market leader in many of its products."

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Business Diary: On cue? • Gift of the grab



"Something to do with his union actually supporting further wage controls."

Can Pot Black, the BBC-TV programme long a cult with the cognoscenti, do for snooker, a taste of what Wimbledon has long for tennis?

Chartered accountant Alan Deal is hoping that some of the vaudeville and white sleeve glamour of the green baize television stars will rub off on the snooker game. E. J. Riley Holdings, which is being introduced to the stock exchange tomorrow, is a public but unquoted company, reversed into Deal's "shell". Headcrest, earlier this month, in order to obtain a quotation for the Riley market for its 106 shareholders.

Profits have been moving head strongly (although there was a hiccup in 1975) and £251,000 was earned before tax in the first six months of the recent year against £278,000 in the whole of the previous 12 months.

The tables are built in Lancashire, where the group was founded in 1897. It was developed by the Kenyon family, which still has large shareholdings, but may well move sellers once the quote is established.

But while the Kenyons were seen players the present management, chairman John Blinle and vice-chairman Deal, have both heard the like about good snooker playing being the sign of a mispent youth. Deal says he enjoys playing the game and is "one of those undermanned snookers to play on at home".

The company runs a snooker club and has a fast growing furniture company, as well as manufacturing tables but is looking increasingly to the growing demand in pubs for

the kind of film the company makes. Recent examples? *Carry on Dick* and *Carry on Behind*.

Even in the making of films, there is an irony. Many of the special effects that are pulling in the audience for *Star Wars* were filmed at EMI's Elstree studios.

Bernard Knowles, general manager of the New Zealand Dairy Board, leaves London for home today cheered off with the British dairy lobby.

Although sales of New Zealand butter to Britain are tied up until 1980 with grudging agreement from the rest of the EEC, there is no firm contract for New Zealand Cheddar cheese after the end of 1977.

The quota has been whittled down from 30,000 tons in 1971 to 15,000 tons this year and European cheese-makers want to ensure that it never again enters the EEC at preferential rates. Knowles was especially pained yesterday to find the opposition led by Britain's own Dairy Trade Federation and its president, Ben Davies, vice-chairman of Unilever.

"This isn't the sort of behaviour we expect from the British", Knowles said. "Their car manufacturers keep saying that the Americans and Japanese should give consumers choice by not restricting imports. They should apply the same principle to themselves."

Knowles pointed out that it would be incongruous at best for one of the world's leading and longest-standing producers of Cheddar cheese to be excluded from the country that actually contained the village of Cheddar.

Rank has been noted by the recent success of ATV and EMI and embarrassed by the ribbing, both in this column and at annual meetings, over

interests outside the Xerox duplicating business. At the end of January this year Rank ended the agreement under which the company distributed Twentieth Century Fox films. But Fox has since come up with the film *Star Wars*, an intergalactic tour de force starring Sir Alec Guinness.

So popular is the film in the United States that the Fox share price has doubled. Rank, however, will now get only the box office takings from showings at Rank cinemas when the film opens here on December 27.

The irony is that Rank decided to end the agreement (leaving Fox to do its own distribution) because since Harry Smith replaced Sir John Davis as chairman more emphasis is being placed on film production.

Rank has been noted by the recent success of ATV and EMI and embarrassed by the ribbing, both in this column and at annual meetings, over

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144.5%. The

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1975

9,655

1,339

25,227

10,337

26,193

Some key executives 'are earning less than shop floor workers'

Some senior managers are working longer hours than men on the shop floor and taking home less pay, a conference of leading industrialists was told yesterday.

Mr David Bromidge, chairman of Antony Gibbs Management Services, said many key executives' charges of production and exports were close to revolt over the "annihilation" of differentials.

His consultancy was now overhauling the management pay structure of a Yorkshire electrical components company. The overhaul was commissioned after managers refused to agree to increased sales and production targets.

"The cause of executive anger was not hard to locate", Mr Bromidge told the conference in Bradford. "Three out of 15 members of the management team were actually worse off than production-line workers".

Mr Bromidge contrasted the lot of the progress manager, responsible for four workshops and 700 men, with that of a skilled electrician on the circuit assembly line.

The manager's salary had risen to £155 a week compared with £35 a week in 1972, an increase of 83 per cent which was well short of the 130 per cent surge in the cost of living.

His take-home pay was £105 against £67 five years ago, a rise of only 57 per cent and on average he worked 11 hours unpaid overtime each week.

The electrician's salary was £110 a week compared with £42 five years ago, a 162 per cent rise, and his net pay was up from £33 to £55, a jump of 66 per cent.

"But the story does not end there", Mr Bromidge said. "The electrician does an average of eight hours overtime each week, for which he is paid at time-and-a-half. Therefore his

total take-home pay is usually £107, making him £2 better off than his boss for three hours less work."

Mr Bromidge said this was "an extreme but by no means unique" example of differential erosion. His company's research showed that eight in every 10 northern executives were worse off than five years ago.

"The pay explosion of the early '70s was only a faint echo at management levels, where revised salaries were, in any case, devalued by higher tax rates. And incomes policies favouring the lower-paid have eroded differentials still further."

The conference, held jointly by Antony Gibbs and Dickinson, Keighley and Co, a firm of chartered accountants in Bradford, was called to debate strategy on executive pay after phase two. It was attended by major employers in the North.

Business appointments

Mr C Tidbury to be new chairman of Whitbread

Mr Charles Tidbury, deputy chairman and chief executive of Whitbread, is to become chairman on December 31, succeeding Mr Alex Bennett, who is retiring but will remain a director.

Mr Victor Wood, deputy chairman of Charringtons Industrial Holdings, has succeeded Mr Rowland Hall as chairman.

Mr A. Clayton, Mr P. G. Belak and Mr D. N. Wood have joined the house of Mann Egerton, Mr S. W. Murray, Threlkeld and Mr V. Hollingworth have become directors of F. Pratt Engineering Corporation.

Mr A. C. Rother Perry has succeeded Mr J. F. Oberholzer as chairman of Rand London Corporation. Mr J. G. Pickney and Mr L. I. Wall have joined the board. Mr S. B. Jones, Mr A. E. Morgan and Mr R. C. Bartlett have resigned.

Mr David Sawyer has joined the board and has been elected deputy chairman of Cornhill Insurance.

Mr Michael Barry has been appointed director of corporate finance for British Shipbuilders. Mr Anthony Harvey has become director of new business within

the marketing division. Mr A. McDonald has been seconded to the corporation from the shipbuilding policy branch of the Department of Industry to work at director level within the marketing division.

Mr Peter Milne, managing director of Swan Hunter Shipbuilders, is on short-term secondment to work within the operations division.

Mr John Parker, managing director of Austin & Pickersgill, has joined on secondment to take charge of the corporation's marketing division. Mr John Pullen becomes director of public relations and Mr A. G. Robertson director of industrial relations.

Mr J. E. Birch has been elected to the board of RAI Group. Mr H. J. C. Puley has been made a director of Anderson Finch Villiers.

Mr William Duncan and Mr Peter Luna, general manager of Barclays Bank International, have additionally been appointed directors from October 1.

Mr J. E. Carleton, Mr T. W. Smart and Mr G. A. Brooking have become directors of Betty's.

Japan's balance of payments surplus rises

Tokyo, July 19.—Japan's overall balance of payments surplus rose to \$1,990m (about £1,560m) in the first half of 1977 from \$1,020m in the same period, the Finance Ministry reported.

The current account surplus increased to \$3,090m from \$832m in the first half of 1976, with the visible trade surplus rising to \$6,640m from \$3,850m. The deficit on invisible trade and transfers increased to \$3,550m from \$3,020m.

Japan's long-term capital account had a deficit of \$952m compared with a surplus of \$368m in the same period. Surplus by Sweden, Sweden recorded a 400m crown trade surplus in June compared with a 100m crown deficit in May, according to preliminary figures from the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Exports increased in June to 7,600m crowns from 7,100m in May while imports were unchanged from May at 7,300m crowns.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Dispute at offshoot takes toll of M L Hlds

By Alison Mitchell

ML Holdings, the Slough-based aircraft, armament and general engineering group, has been unable to cushion the effects of a 20-week work-to-rule at one of its subsidiaries.

Despite a marginal improvement in the second-half, the group finished the year to March 31 with pre-tax profits of £509,000, down 12½ per cent on the previous 12 months. It follows a first half drop of 37½ per cent. Turnover for the year dipped from £113m to £10m.

The first-half work-to-rule at ML Engineering, Slough, which involved a Phase 1 pay settlement, is estimated to have cost the group around £100,000 to £200,000. However, the plant is now working normally and this division provided the largest upturn in the second half.

Orders in the engineering side are "patchy" and at the Plymouth division contracts are down on the same period last year. This side should benefit in the current year from its Australian activities, according to Mr Ralph Price, group chairman.

Armaments now account for over half of group turnover. Contracts at research and development offshoot ML Aviation are at a record level.

The group are to spend over £1m in the current year on a new foundry for Northampton piano frame castings subsidiary Crown Foundry. This expansion programme will be financed internally. ML Holdings currently has around £750,000 in cash and short term deposits.

Last year's dip in profits breaks a run of constant improvement stretching back over a decade. But the chairman is confident.

A final dividend of 4½p gross raises the total for the year by the maximum possible to 5.866p.

Dividend caution and industry doubts depress Magnet & S's

By Ray Maughan

Down 8p to 145, Magnet & Southern was a weak market yesterday on two counts. The recently-merged group has clearly failed to use its dividend freedom to the limit of dealers' estimates while the chairman's own forecast of immediate trading conditions gives little indication of maintained growth.

Since the merger of Southern-Evans with Magnet Joinery in the autumn of 1975, the board has had licence to pay what dividend it feels fit. Market estimates had been pinned on around 15p a share gross but, in the event, the total has been hoisted from 9.4p to 12.3p gross per share.

It is apparent caution, and the timber group's desire to maintain high cover of 273 times, is a reflection of the uncertainties in the timber industry, this pinning the second cause of the market's reaction to the results.

Pre-tax profits for the year to end-March last yesterday climbed over 27 per cent to



Mr Sam Oxford, chairman and chief executive of Magnet & Southern.

£14.39m on sales ahead by 19 per cent to £97.88m. Magnet, chipping in for a 13-month period pushed pre-tax profits ahead from £5.5m to £7.1m while the Southern-Evans side

advanced from £5.7m to £7.29m. The benefits of the merger have already been seen, not least because Southern was able to put its own joinery business, worth around £5m annually, through Magnet's factories.

For the current year Mr Sam Oxford, chairman, reports that demand generally is lacking, but the underlying concern must be that there is an upsurge without a substantial reduction of the present high level of inflation, more problems may be created than solved.

For the while, though, timber import prices are likely to remain stable as long as sterling parities are healthy and the group will lose much of the quantified benefit of stock profits.

The tax provision for stock appreciation rose last year from £1.39m to £1.51m but, because of the uncertainties of the level of future stock relief, the board has elected not to treat accumulated deferred tax now standing at around £9m as a transfer to shareholders' funds.

Whitbread is 'fighting to maintain its position'

By Our Financial Staff

There has been no let-up in the difficult trading war in the second-half of last year, the annual meeting of Whitbread was told. This has continued into the present term, with beer trade down, Mr Alex Bennett, chairman, said.

"Last year we put up prices of beer by 12 per cent, far below the rise in inflation," The Chancellor put up the price by raising duty by 13 per cent and he now took over 10p on every pint sold in beer duty and VAT alone.

He also pointed out that over £100m was being invested in the next two years. If profits suffered, investments would have to be cut.

In the difficult wines and spirits market, he added, Long John continued to improve both at home and overseas. Langenbach wines in the United Kingdom were 11 per cent up on the first quarter and were going well in the United States.

He strongly defended price increases made by the company. "Last year we put up prices of beer by 12 per cent, far below the rise in inflation," The Chancellor put up the price by raising duty by 13 per cent and he now took over 10p on every pint sold in beer duty and VAT alone.

He also pointed out that over £100m was being invested in the next two years. If profits suffered, investments would have to be cut.

Ship freight likely to check Ropner

The 55 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.8m is unlikely to be matched in the current year at Ropner Holdings, says Mr W. G. David Ropner, chairman, in his annual statement.

The blame seems to lay with the group's shipping division. Despite pushing up profits from £384,000 to £442,000, it is being held back by the grim state of the freight market, where world trade has not expanded in line with optimistic forecasts.

On a brighter note the group's new 117,000-ton dry cargo bulk carrier my Lackenby has been chartered to the British Steel Corporation for a 15-year period.

International

RCA second quarter its best-ever

Earnings of RCA, the American electronics and military equipment manufacturer, in the second quarter of this year rose 31 per cent over the same period a year ago, attaining the highest level of any previous quarter.

This gain, achieved on a sale increase of 8 per cent, saw RCA's eighth consecutive quarter of year-on-year profit growth.

Mr Edgar Griffiths, president, said the second-quarter results, added to a record first quarter, lifted RCA's profit 1977's first half higher than the full year 1974 or 1975, it was 35 per cent higher than the previous first half in 1976.

Profit for the three months ended June 30 was \$70.1m (about £41.2m) breaking a record for quarterly earnings that had stood since the fourth quarter of 1963. This compares with \$53.7m in the same period last year. Sales for the quarter reached a new high of \$1,400m against \$1,300m a year ago.

Mr Griffiths added: "We feel the company is only in the early phase of a long-range upward movement."

Babcock in US

Babcock & Wilcox, a America, the power generation group, says it expects a very good year in 1977 and prospects for years ahead are very encouraging, with a large backlog and a good level of inquiries for utility boilers.

I said a strong performance in fossil power generating equipment was a major contribution to record earnings in the second quarter. New orders received in the second quarter totalled \$510.9m (about £309.5m) compared with \$391.9m in the same 1976 quarter. New orders in the first half rose to \$936.1m from \$556.9m.



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LEEDS	GLASGOW
1974 (January) Rolls-Royce Corniche Saloon finished in Le Mans Blue with Magnolia upholstery and a Magnolia Everflex roof covering. 2,200 miles only. £39,000	1976 (Feb) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow 4-door saloon, finished in black with beige trim, leather upholstery, 18,000 miles. £22,450
1974 (Mar) Rolls-Royce Corniche Convertible, Wilton gold with black Everflex roof. Black leather upholstery, 18,000 miles. £21,750	1976 (Feb) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow 4-door saloon, ivory with tan Everflex roof and tan trim, Gold electric sun roof, 8.1 compression ratio, 18,000 miles. £18,250
1976 (Sept) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow 4-door saloon, Cardinal red with beige trim, leather upholstery, 4,000 miles. £22,750	1976 (Feb) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow 4-door saloon, Caribbean blue over silver with beige trim, 8.1 compression ratio, 18,000 miles. £18,250
1976 (Aug) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow 4-door saloon, Regency bronze with black trim, leather upholstery, 18,000 miles. £22,750	1976 (Oct) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow 4-door saloon, Highland green over pewter with tan trim, Quartz (gold) headlamps, 8.1 compression ratio, 18,250 miles. £18,250
1976 (Feb) Bentley T Type saloon, Seychelles blue over shell grey with dark blue trim, leather upholstery, 25,000 miles. £18,450	1976 (Sept) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow 4-door saloon, Seychelles blue with light blue trim, Sunray glass, air conditioning, 18,000 miles. £18,250

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- 1977 January Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow, finished in black with beige trim, leather upholstery, 18,000 miles. £22,450
- 1976 January Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow, finished in black with beige trim, leather upholstery, 18,000 miles. £22,450
- 1976 January Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow, finished in black with beige trim, leather upholstery, 18,000 miles. £22,450

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1975 (March) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow four door saloon finished in Seychelles Blue over Silver Mink with beige trim. 8.1 compression ratio. 35,000 miles. £17,450

1974 (February) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow four door saloon finished in Shell Grey with Dark Blue upholstery. 18,000 miles. £17,950

1974 (November) Rolls-Royce Corniche Saloon finished in Le Mans Blue with Light Blue upholstery. Flared wheel arch model. 32,000 miles. £22,950

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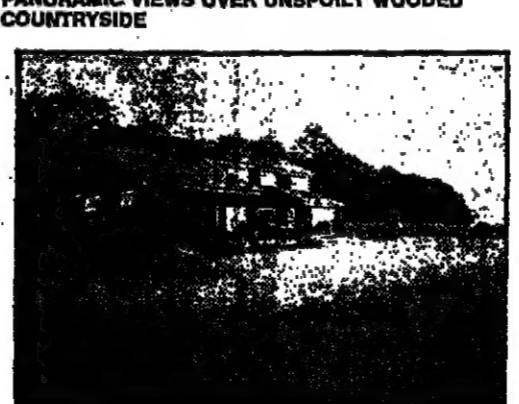
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Executive Secretary to newly appointed American Director responsible for coordination of European, Middle Eastern and African operations. The job will entail supporting the Director in a wide range of managerial, administrative and secretarial functions. These include high-level contacts and exposure to sensitive information, calling for the use of considerable tact, diplomacy, discretion and judgement. Scope for initiative and innovation in expanding various staff functions, streamlining Director's workflow and maintaining continuity during his frequent business trips.

THE CANDIDATE

The successful candidate will have a good education (A-level preferred) combined with a high standard of secretarial skills (presentation and accuracy more important than speed). Age 25-35 preferred, and several years' practical business experience at director level essential.

SALARY AND CONDITIONS

Salary according to age and experience within scale specified, plus usual benefits, modern offices near East Croydon Station. Hours 9.5 Monday to Friday.

For application form write to telephone Mrs. J. Molten, SRI-International, Carolyn House, Dingwell Road, Croydon. Tel: 01-881 1781.

Top Jobs for Executive Secretaries

HOLBORN VIADUCT £3,500

Although helpful, previous legal experience is not essential for this exceptional opportunity. The Senior Partner, who specialises in Family Finances and Trusts for individual clients, will train a suitable secretary to become a genuine P.A., able to deal with Brokers in the buying and selling of shares and other interesting aspects of the work.

Contact: Mrs Dawn Sharriff 01-235 9984

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For a young secretary who wishes to train for something a little different—here could be the answer. While working for the Chairman of this Wine and Spirit Import Company, it is possible to study for the Diploma required by the Wine Industry. A little French would be useful and the work is always interesting. A very happy youthful atmosphere. Mini Bus collects from Cannon Street, Bank and St. Pauls. Starting £3,000 slightly negotiable.

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The Senior Partner of a large Architectural and Planning Consultancy situated in Holborn, seeks an experienced secretary to assist him with his routine and private work. Audio and shorthand required. Age range is fairly open—either mid-twenties or the forties into fifties. Annual salary reviews.

Contact: Miss Angela Mortimer 01-235 9984

BILINGUAL/FRENCH W1

A smart well spoken secretary for the Piccadilly office of this international company. Good secretarial skills, and fluent French are needed. Age 28-38.

Contact: Miss Angela Mortimer 01-235 9984

Late night opening 6.45 pm every Thursday.

Telephone Mrs Dorothy Allison (Manager) on 01-235 9984 for an appointment at

4-5 Grosvenor Place, Hyde Park Corner, SW1

FLAIR FOR ADMIN?

We are a small friendly German Company near Piccadilly Circus and one of our Directors and our Company Secretary are looking for a capable Secretary.

IF YOU ARE 24+, HAVE A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF GERMAN, THINK YOU ARE WORTH A GOOD SALARY, INTELLIGENT, MATURE, ABLE TO WORK ON YOUR OWN AND WITH A GOOD TELEPHONE MANNER PLEASE CONTACT VANESSA DURHAM, 01-930 4504/9.

PUBLISHING SALES DIRECTOR

requires

Secretary/PA

The Sales Director of the publishers of Britain's biggest newspaper company is looking for an experienced Secretary/PA (female) with good shorthand and typing skills. This exceptionally interesting and varied position requires the ability to use initiative and to deal with people.

The successful applicant will have a pleasant personality, must be capable of working under pressure and prepared to identify with the needs of the department.

The salary paid will be appropriate to this demanding job.

Ring Rose Thorpe, 267 4455, extension 524

MIRROR GROUP NEWSPAPERS

33 Boltons, London, E.C.1.

SECRETARY

Required for a Vice-President in charge of Middle East banking in an American bank in the City. Candidate should preferably have experience of the Middle East and the preferred age is 25 to 35. Remuneration, including good fringe benefits, will be generous for the right candidate.

Write only with C.V. to Ms. H. Thompson, Crocker National Bank, 34 Great St. Helens, EC3A 8EP.

V.P.'S ASST. £4,000

West End Co. Controller has an opportunity for an experienced Secretary/PA to Director.

P.A. to DIRECTOR, £4,000

Director needs a Secretary with good skills to organise his work on a day-to-day basis.

Salary is negotiable circa £3,500. Excellent benefits apply.

To arrange an early interview, please telephone Mrs. Houshield, Chief & Secretary, West End Co., 100, Strand, London, W.C.2. Tel: 01-930 9500, ext. 67.

GERMAN SEC. £4,000

City Banker needs a Secretary to assist a Senior Executive. Lots of opportunity to develop new contacts and business.

Excellent conditions and benefits.

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BI-LINGUAL SECRETARY P.A.

c. £4,500

To assist dynamic, young managing director of new U.K. subsidiary of large German publishing group.

A good knowledge of written and spoken German is essential. The successful candidate will be bilingual and experienced at top executive level. An attractive salary and excellent benefits package will also be offered.

The salary is around the £4,000 mark, plus excellent benefits package will also be offered.

Includes a pension scheme, 4 weeks holiday and lunchtime vouchers.

LOCATION - WIMBORNE

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DIRECTOR'S P/A

£3,500 plus

In a single day you are liable to be

Talking to Ecuador, Venezuela, New York as frequently as Ealing, Vennor and Nottingham.

Planning a Board meeting and preparing Board papers.

Organising the travel plan for the Director's visit to Luxembourg.

Booking hotel accommodation for a Japanese delegation.

Using a computer terminal to help check the probability of a new publication (training will be given on using the computer terminal).

Preparing administrative notices for staff.

If you can handle all this and more, calmly and efficiently, really know what makes a good Personal Assistant, and have the usual secretarial skills, then you are the candidate for the Director of Publishing and Information Services at the Institution of Electrical Engineers is seeking.

The Publishing and Information Services Division employs 200 people in locations in London, Stranraer and Hinton and operates internationally. The Personal Assistant to the Director would be located in London (offices near to the Savoy) and in addition to the range of tasks mentioned would be responsible for informal information collection and public relations liaison. A background in publishing or journalism would be an advantage.

Salary not less than £3,500 p.a., four weeks' vacation, subsidised river-view restaurant. Flexible working hours and other fringe benefits.

Apply: Amentie Calverhouse, 01-436 9339 or write to:

The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0EL.

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